

- **"Bazaar" Saturdays In Agawam...**
See four-page photo spread of Christmas 1999 bazaars.



AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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"Your Hometown Newspaper"

Volume XXIII Number 1

January 6, 2000

A New Era Begins In Agawam



Magovern Elected Council President...

Cohen Sworn In As Mayor

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

A sense of controlled excitement characterized the atmosphere at Agawam Middle School on Sunday, January 2nd at the 2:00 p.m. Inaugural Ceremony for incoming Mayor Richard Cohen, 11 members of City Council, and six School Committee representatives.

Town Clerk Richard Theroux addressed approximately 200 citizens there to take part in this dignified and joyful occasion. This was only the second time Agawam's townspeople have had the opportunity to witness a new mayor being inaugurated, as Christopher C. Johnson (the town's only mayor these past 11 years) decided not to run again.

Louis Russo, chaplain of American Legion Post 185, called for the Legion's Color Guard, and the National Anthem was sung a cappella by Stephanie Rondinelli, while the Pledge of Allegiance was spoken by everyone. The Memory Lane Singers added a special touch, accompanied by Darcy Davis on piano, with "This Is My Country," "America the Beautiful," and "God Bless America."

SEE INAUGURAL - Page 2...



IN LEFT PHOTO: Kenneth Morytko of American Legion Post 185 bears the American flag at the January 2nd inauguration. IN TOP PHOTO: Incoming Mayor Richard Cohen (center) with State Representative Daniel Keenan and U.S. Congressman Richard Neal. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



INCOMING MAYOR RICHARD COHEN (far right) with 10 members of the newly-elected Agawam City Council (from left to right): Robert Rossi, Vice-President Robert Young, President Robert Magovern, Dennis Perry, Anthony Bonavita, Jill Simpson, Gina-Marie Letellier, Kent Servis, Joseph Mineo, and Richard Morassi. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

INAUGURAL - from Page 1...

U.S. Congressman Richard Neal, a former mayor of Springfield, spoke about times when the new mayor would receive phone calls on Sunday mornings, but that the job would allow for some humor as well. Things vital to citizens are as basic as trash removal and sewer fees. "What is important as an elected official is to be at your very best when many people are at their worst," said Neal.

"...Energy, Excitement, & Enthusiasm..."

State Representative Daniel Keenan came next to the podium and spoke about a sense of "energy, excitement, and enthusiasm" at this unofficial swearing in of Agawam's new mayor, the council members, and the School Committee. Keenan pointed out that many great accomplishments are possible when this kind of group energy is harnessed.

Theroux then introduced the Town Council and the School Committee, they cited their oaths, and Cohen shook hands with each one.

The excitement in the auditorium was palpable when Cohen stood, with his father, Dr. Philip Cohen of Longmeadow, beside him, raised his hand, and took the oath of office read to him by Theroux.

The audience came to its feet many times, cheering the new mayor just moments after he recited his promise. Cohen made a special point of offering thanks to outgoing Mayor Christopher C. Johnson and outgoing Council President Donald M. Rheault. Although neither was present, Cohen allowed the crowd time to stand and applaud both men for all they have done for Agawam.

Cohen gave a brief but comprehensive speech, promising to work "as a team" with the Town Council and the School Committee. A major goal is a "strong educational system. We must assure that we also create an environment that is safe and second to none," he said.

The new mayor also said, "It is imperative that

our senior residents are cared for as they face many challenges that are significant to their continued quality of life." He ended his speech by quoting Anne Sullivan's student, Helen Keller: "Alone we can do little. Together, we can do so much." Cohen then asked that Agawam's citizens "Join me in continuing to make Agawam the best it can be."

Theroux closed the proceedings, inviting everyone to the cafeteria for refreshments and a chance to socialize.

Cohen took his official oath at 8:30 a.m. Monday at Agawam Town Hall, sworn in by Town Clerk Richard Theroux. The council members took their official oaths at Monday night's meeting. Two-term councilor Robert Magovern was voted president, edging out former council president Kent Servis in a 6-5 vote. Robert Young was voted vice president in a 6-5 vote and Ursula Retzler was again unanimously voted clerk of the council. Carol Tylor was again voted in unanimously as the town auditor/accountant.

Magovern stated his hopes that this will be "an active and accomplishing council." He called this a time of change and observed, "With that comes challenge." He expressed his desire to make Agawam the best city in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Every member spoke highly of their co-councilors and praised the citizens of Agawam for their support. Magovern made a special point of thanking former council president Donald Rheault, who "set a good example for us all."

New councilor Richard Morassi, the oldest member of the new council at 58, presided over the council's election of officers. He, along with Magovern and councilors Robert Rossi, Dennis Perry, Gina-Marie Letellier, and Young, supported Magovern. The same group supported Young as vice-president.

Supporting Servis were veteran councilors George Bitzas and Jill Simpson, new councilors Joseph Mineo and Anthony C. Bonavita, and Servis. The same group supported Bitzas for vice-president in the 6-5 loss to Young.

checks payable to The Committee to Elect Rich Cohen and mail to Mr. William Beaudry, 87 Country Lane, Agawam, MA 01001.

For further information, contact the Mayor's Office, 786-0400, ext. 200.

Fire Wise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano

If There Is A Fire In Your Kitchen, Put A Lid On It...

The majority of accidental fires in the home start in the kitchen. Property damage could be drastically reduced if people only knew what to do when confronted with a kitchen fire.

The Agawam Fire Department suggests the following steps when confronted with a fire in the kitchen:

- **If the fire is confined to a pan on top of the stove, slide the lid across the pan and leave it there.** Do not attempt to move the pan outdoors because you may burn yourself or spread the fire.

- **Never throw water or flour on a burning pan.** Water will spread the flames and flour will actually explode!

- **Do not turn on the exhaust fan over the stove.** This would suck the fire inside the walls of your home. If the fire is in your oven, turn off the heat and leave the door closed to cut off the fire's air supply.

- **Install a fire extinguisher in the kitchen.** Make sure it is easily accessible in the event of a grease or oven fire. When purchasing a fire extinguisher for kitchen use, make sure the extinguisher is rated for Class ABC fires to insure its acceptability for use on kitchen fires.

- **If the fire is inside the oven, close the oven door.** This action should smother the fire.

- **If the fire is too large to safely cover, or for your fire extinguisher, leave the house immediately and call the fire department from a neighbor's telephone.** Trying to fight a fire yourself when it's too large can cause far more extensive damage and can result in serious, unnecessary injury.

- **As a preventive action, keep your cooking appliances (including stovetops, burners, the oven, and broilers) clean.** Built-up grease can flare up easily, causing dangerous and damaging fires. And keep combustible materials (paper towels, dish towels, paper bags, cookbooks, and food packaging) away from the stove or other heat source. Keep your kitchen fire-safe.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

Inaugural Ball On Sat., Jan. 15th

An Inaugural Ball to honor Mayor Richard A. Cohen will be held Saturday, January 15, 2000 at Storowton Carriage House in West Springfield.

Cost is \$25 per person, with cocktails at 6:00 p.m. and food stations following at 7:00.

RSVP is requested by January 8th. Please make

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Letters To The Editor

A Lack Of Communication Exists Over MCAS Meetings

To The Editor:

I would like to thank Maureen Haglund for her "Letter to the Editor." I have been writing letter after letter, and I have not sent them yet. But it will go out this week.

I do find it very funny that we now have a time limit on our letters to the Dept. of Education. I apologize for not being at the meeting about the MCAS because I had no idea there was one. I see that it was well-publicized and, like last year, it was during the busiest time of the year.

I knew about last year's meeting a day before it was to be. Again in December and with a day's notice and working nights, I was unable to make the meeting. I called Mr. Charest's office and asked to speak with him, and he was in a meeting that day.

I'm still waiting for a call from him. I only wanted to know what he was going to do for the people who could not come to the meeting with only one day's notice.

I believe, Maureen, that many parents care, but the communication about these meetings is not there and they, like me, really did not know where to send a letter or were afraid.

This whole test is just so unreal to me. It makes no sense to me, and I know there are a lot more of us out there who (I hope) will join the bandwagon.

I have enclosed a copy of my letter to *The Advertiser News* in the hope they can print it. If they cannot, I would be pleased to send you a copy.

Thank you again.

Cheryl Panek
Feeding Hills

Thank-You, Chris Johnson, For Your Outstanding Service

To The Editor:

While still in his 20's, Mayor Johnson sought and was elected the first mayor of the City of Agawam, a position lacking guidelines or precedent.

This young man enthusiastically entered the searing heat of Agawam politics and came up a winner. He was unselfish in committing his time, energy, and foresight in smoothing an inherited tumultuous political scene.

Our first mayor, Christopher Johnson, has left a proud legacy as witnessed by his actions while in the position he now vacates.

Now that our first and only mayor has become merely our first mayor, one cannot help but speculate about the challenges facing our new mayor. Guided by Mayor Johnson, our city has thrived without being burdened with enormous tax increases.

Mayor Johnson willingly accepted and provided strong educational leadership at a time when it was acutely needed. Mayor Johnson negotiated fairly with all departments while respecting all city employees.

Mayor Johnson was always prompt, decisive, and effective in responding to concerns of our citizens. Even the most casual observer recognizes the sincerity and the long hours Mayor Johnson devoted to meticulously scrutinizing all submitted budgets in order to ensure the taxpayer received full value for each expenditure.

Mayor Johnson, congratulations on a job well done! From chaos you created stability. From the unknown, you defined the role of "Mayor." Your leadership will be sorely missed and therein lies the greatest challenge to your successor, Mayor Cohen. How do we preserve that which we have without stifling progress while maintaining fiscal restraint?

I pray that success will follow Mayor Johnson in whatever endeavor he chooses and to Mayor Cohen, I wish you a successful reign as the Mayor of Agawam.

William J. Miller
Agawam

*All the hometown
news with us, each
and every week...*

* * *

Donovan Sworn In As Police Sgt.



JAMES DONOVAN OF THE AGAWAM POLICE DEPARTMENT was recently promoted to the rank of sergeant. Pictured at the swearing in ceremony are (from left to right) outgoing Mayor Christopher Johnson, Police Chief Robert Campbell, Sergeant Donovan, and Town Clerk Richard Theroux. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



POLICE SERGEANT JAMES DONOVAN is congratulated by his family on the occasion of his recent promotion. Pictured with Sergeant Donovan are Brandon (his son), Doris (his wife), and Bridget (his daughter). Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



The Agawam Advertiser•News

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— Agawam Obituaries —

Angela E. Kenney

Angela E. (Pio) Kenney, 75, of 38D Paul Revere Drive, Feeding Hills, died recently at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield.

She was a long-time employee of Milton Bradley, retiring in 1986.

Born in Springfield, she was a graduate of Commerce High School, moving to Feeding Hills in 1982.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills.

She leaves two sons, James E. of Wilmington, North Carolina, and Stephen O. of Haverhill; two daughters, Kathleen R. Cassanelli of Feeding Hills and Cynthia Kenney of Springfield; a brother, Otis "Pat" Jr. of Chicopee; a sister, Grace Pio of Agawam; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Tazzini Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Mary E. Pydych

Mary E. (Baran) Pydych, 85, of Agawam, died recently at a local nursing home.

She was a long-time resident of West Springfield and a former communicant of St. Thomas Church there before moving to Agawam.

Her husband, Edward A. Pydych, died in 1993.

She leaves many relatives, including a sister-in-law, Jean M. Pydych, and a niece, Joyce A. Tyrell, both of Springfield.

A graveside service will be conducted on the afternoon of January 27th in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Chicopee. St. Pierre Springfield Funeral Chapels was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to any charity.

Louise Muise

Louise (Moulton) Muise, 81, of 295 Regency Park, Agawam, died recently at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

She taught for 44 years in public schools, 40 of which were at Saugus Junior High School. She retired in 1985.

Born in Somersworth, New Hampshire, she lived in Saugus before moving to Agawam in 1985.

She was a graduate of Hamilton High School, Salem State College, and did graduate work at Boston University.

She was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church, where she was a member of the Over 60 Club, Bible Study Group, and a eucharistic minister.

She was a volunteer for the Loaves and Fishes, a freedom writer for Amnesty International for

many years, and coordinator of the eucharistic ministers for Heritage Hall Nursing Home East Building.

Her first husband, Joseph DiBlasi, died in 1960, and her second husband, Simon Muise, died in 1993.

She leaves a stepdaughter, Suzanne Romano of West Suffield, CT; two stepgranddaughters; a nephew, Kenneth Moulton; and two nieces, Sherry Leslie and Chris Moulton.

The funeral was held at Agawam Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Loaves and Fishes, 287 State Street, Springfield, MA 01105, or to the Open Pantry, Box 5127, Springfield, MA 01101-5127.

Philip J. Buscemi

Philip "Phil" James Buscemi, 55, of 46 Greenacre Lane, Agawam, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He worked for Sleepy's in Avon, CT, for the past year. Previously, he worked at JC Penney Co. and Filene's in Holyoke.

Born in Queens, New York, he was a long-time Longmeadow resident, moving to Agawam 18 years ago.

He was a Longmeadow High School graduate and a Vietnam War Navy veteran.

He leaves his parents, Barney and Ora (Boulier) Buscemi of Ormond Beach, Florida; three brothers, Peter of Longmeadow, and James and J. Michael of Agawam; and his fiancée, Maureen Burns, with whom he made his home.

The funeral was held at Leete-Stevens Enfield Chapels, with burial in St. Patrick's King Street Cemetery, both in Enfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Agawam Ambulance Fund, in care of the Agawam Fire Department, 800 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Thomas G. Rovelli

Thomas G. Rovelli, 92, formerly of Castle Street, Springfield, a recreation leader in that city, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was the 25-year recreation director for Springfield's Parks and Recreation Department.

Born in New York City, he lived in Italy before returning to this country at the age of 14. He attended Agawam schools and studied recreation at Springfield College.

In the early 1930's, he organized the city of Springfield Employees Basketball League, which included the police, fire, streets and engineering, school, welfare, and physical education depart-

ments. In the 1950's, he helped to organize the first outdoor basketball Adult League at Blunt Park. This came about after he got the Parks Department to construct basketball courts on the playgrounds in the 1930's.

During World War II, he was the athletics director at Smith & Wesson Corp. and his basketball and baseball teams won Industrial League championships. He was a member of Elks Lodge 61 and a life member and founder of the Basketball Hall of Fame.

He officiated basketball on all levels, including international, for 30 years. He was a past president of Board 31 of the Basketball Officials of Western Massachusetts.

He leaves his wife of 67 years, the former Joyce W. Smith; a son, Smith T. Rovelli of Feeding Hills; two daughters, Avril J. Tippet and Janis K.M. DeGrandpre, both of Hampden; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery, West Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Basketball Hall of Fame, 1150 West Columbus Avenue, Springfield, MA 01105, or the St. Cecilia's Church music fund at 42 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095.

Herman E. Drewes

Herman E. Drewes, 96, of 22 Federal Street, Agawam, a former Springfield teacher, died recently at a local nursing home.

He was a 37-year drafting and math teacher at Springfield Trade School, now Putnam Vocational High School, retiring in 1967.

He also did patent drawings for clients throughout the country until he retired.

Born in Chicopee, he lived in Springfield for 63 years. He moved to Chatham in 1968 and to Agawam in 1996. He was a graduate of Technical High School and Northeastern University.

He was an instructor in the War Department — now the Defense Department — during World War II.

He was a life member and 32nd Degree Mason with the Esoteric Lodge, and a member of the Melha Shrine Temple, where he was former secretary and treasurer. He also belonged to the National Retired Teacher's Association and the First Congregational Church of Chatham. He was a member of the Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association of Massachusetts and a founding member of Sixteen Acres Lions Club.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 6...

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OBITUARIES - from Page 5...

His wife, the former Dorothy C. Pease, died in 1997.

He leaves a son, Gerald C. of Agawam; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The burial was at the convenience of the family, and Agawam Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Louis J. Zimkiewicz

Louis J. Zimkiewicz, 91, of Suffield, died recently at home.

He was a 28-year Pratt & Whitney Aircraft employee and a self-employed tobacco farmer.

A lifelong Suffield resident, he was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam.

He leaves his wife, the former Valerie Samborski; a son, Louis G. of Manchester; a daughter, Constance Sullivan of Longmeadow; two sisters, Florence Polchopek of Springfield and Anna Kosiorek of West Springfield; seven grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home in Suffield and in the church in Agawam, with burial in St. Adalbert's Cemetery, Enfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Suffield Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 642, Suffield, CT 06078.

Alice G. Reece

Alice G. (Cote) Reece, 90, of Agawam, died recently at a local nursing home.

Born in Springfield, she lived in Holyoke, Longmeadow, and in Suffield, CT, for 19 years before moving to Agawam last year.

She worked at H.P. Hood Co. for many years in Agawam and in Holyoke, and retired as a head clerk in 1975.

Her husband, C. Lawrence Reece, Jr., predeceased her.

She leaves a son, C. Lawrence of Enfield; two grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

The funeral was held at Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home and Sacred Heart Church, both in Suffield, with burial in Hillcrest Park Cemetery in Springfield.

Clark W. Jones

Clark W. "Cracker" Jones, 85, died on December 30th at his home in Rotonda West, Florida.

Born in Springfield, he lived most of his life in Agawam before moving to Florida in 197.

He owned and operated a wholesale meat company in Springfield.

He was a star athlete at Agawam High School in the early 1930's. He attended American International College and was on the football team at the college.

He was an Army veteran of World War II and a member of American Legion Post 113, Englewood, Florida. He was a former member of the Agawam Lions Club.

He leaves his wife, Rita M. Jones of Rotonda West; three sons, Clark W. and Richard B. of Huntington, MA, and David B. of Marietta, Georgia; two daughters, Mary Bianca of Feeding Hills and Barbara E. Zink of Port Charlotte, Florida; a brother, Gordon M. of Monticello, Florida; a sister, Phyllis J. Jones of Tallahassee; 18 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Southwest Florida, 5955 Rand Boulevard, Sarasota, Florida 34238, or to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 5265 Placida Road, Englewood, Florida 34224.

Amos Woodell, Jr.

Amos "Sam" Woodell, Jr., 53, of 1160 Perpignan Court, Kissimmee, Florida, and formerly of Agawam, died recently at Health Central Hospital in Ocoee, Florida.

He was a 15-year truck driver for Consolidated Freightways Co. and a part-time employee of Avis Car Rental Co., both in Orlando. He worked previously for Mansfield Paper Co. of West Springfield for 12 years.

Born in Hartford, CT, he grew up in Southwick and was a graduate of the former Trade High School in Springfield.

An Army veteran of the Vietnam War, he was a specialist fourth grade in the Infantry.

He was a 12-year Agawam resident before moving to Florida 15 years ago.

He was a communicant of Blessed Trinity Church and a member of the Teamsters Union, both in Orlando.

His wife, the former Joan C. Twine, died last August 20th.

He leaves two sons, Daniel and Shawn, both of Kissimmee; his mother, Marian (Duncan) Woodell of Southwick; a brother, Peter of Port Charlotte, Florida; and six grandchildren.

The funeral was held at St. John's Church, with burial in Center Cemetery, both in Agawam. Tazzini Funeral Home of Springfield was in charge of the arrangements.

Thomas F. Tourville

Thomas F. Tourville, 64, of 468 Newton Street, South Hadley, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was a designer at Millivision LLC, Northampton. Prior to that, he owned E.M. Design of West Springfield for 12 years.

Born in Springfield, he attended West Springfield schools and graduated from Agawam High School and New England Technical Institute.

He lived in Agawam since 1960, moving to South Hadley five years ago.

A Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, he served in Japan.

He was a communicant of St. Theresa's Church.

A former scoutmaster of Troop 75 of Agawam, he was a member of the Agawam Band Parents.

He leaves his wife, the former Joanne M. Dubois; a son, Christopher T. of Lancaster, Pennsylvania; a daughter, Marie L. Fini of South Hadley; two brothers, Joseph of Enfield, CT, and William of West Springfield; a sister, Margaret Matroni of Easthampton; and a granddaughter.

The funeral was held at Ryder Funeral Home and in the church, with burial in Notre Dame Cemetery, all of South Hadley.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 1111 Elm Street, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Vernon C. Leno

Vernon C. Leno, 83, of 124 Libert Street, Feeding Hills, died recently in a local nursing home.

He was a 28-year shift leader at the former Monsanto plant (now Solutia), retiring in 1978. He was a member of its 25-year club.

Born in Springfield, he was a 1935 graduate of Technical High School and moved to Feeding Hills in 1955.

He was a World War II Navy veteran.

He leaves his wife of 52 years, the former Anita E. Levesque; a daughter, Judith L. Case of Amherst; and a grandson.

The funeral was held at Agawam Funeral Home and in Sacred Heart Church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Lionel J. Rolland

Lionel J. "Lee" Rolland, 65, of Hall Street, Feeding Hills, a former area postmaster, died recently at home.

A 30-year veteran of the U.S. Postal Service, he was a letter carrier for 13 years, a supervisor of mails for 17 years, and the postmaster of Hadley. He retired in 1985.

Born in Springfield, he attended the former High School of Commerce and was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills.

An Army veteran of the Korean War, he was a specialist three technician and was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars, the United Nations Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

He was a member of the Agawam American Legion Post, a past commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter, a past grand knight of the Agawam Knights of Columbus, a faithful navigator of the Archbishop Williams fourth-degree Knights of Columbus Council, and a past president of the National Association of Postal Supervisors.

He leaves his wife, the former Alice R. McTier; three sons, Joseph D. and Matthew J., both of Feeding Hills, and Mark J. of Southwick; two daughters, Lisa J. Rolland-Blanchard of Feeding Hills and Michelle M. Fisher of Huntersville, North Carolina; a brother, Glen P. of Indian Orchard; seven grandchildren; and two stepgrandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of Western New England Inc., P.O. Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01102-9058.

Anthony J. Forastiere

Anthony J. Forastiere, 88, of 201 Forest Park Avenue, Springfield, retired president and chairman of the board of the Forastiere Family Funeral Homes, died recently at home after a long illness.

The Forastiere Family Funeral Homes include the Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam and the Southwick-Forastiere Funeral Home of Southwick.

In 1952, he was the first in the area to institute specific times for visiting hours. In 1959, he doubled the size of the Springfield funeral home. He was an instructor in applied embalming.

Born in Hartford, CT, he graduated from Central High School in Springfield, attended Bucknell University, and graduated from American International College in 1933 with a degree in business administration. He was also a graduate of the New England Institute of Anatomy and Embalming in Boston.

During World War II, he participated in the Airman Technical Program at Westover Air Force Base and served with the Civil Defense Team, designating the funeral home to be used as an emergency morgue should a disaster occur locally. During the 1936 flood, many South End residents utilized the funeral home as a refuge center until the Red Cross could find housing, and he helped coordinate that effort.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and a member of its Holy Name Society.

He belonged to the Springfield Chapter UNICO National and received its Distinguished Service award in 1986. He was a director of the Italian Cultural Center and the Blessed Gaspar Bertoni Council of the Knights of Columbus Archbishop Williams Assembly 4th Degree Knights of Columbus.

He was a charter member of the Stigmatine Fathers' Scholarship Fund, past president of the

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 7...

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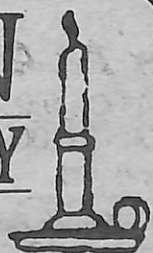
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Agawam Garden Club To Sponsor March 2000 Trip

Join members and friends of the Agawam Garden Club for a special bus trip to the famous Philadelphia Flower Show from March 10-12, 2000. The theme for this year's show is "Gardens for the New Millennium," and it is sure to be spectacular!

On Friday evening, you can choose to attend the Flower Show or take a trip to the nearby Franklin Mills Mall, which features over 200 discount and specialty stores that are sure to please everyone's tastes and budgets.

On Saturday night, a visit to the Flower Show will also include a special "reservation-only" tea amidst stunning floral arrangements.

We will also be spending time at the world-renowned Longwood Gardens on Sunday.

Ample time will be available for those wishing to visit various attractions such as the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Antique Row, the Betsy Ross House, etc.

Participating restaurants will be offering unique, flower-themed menus.

Our accommodations will be at the Holiday Inn City Line for two nights, including a full American breakfast buffet on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Pricing for this exciting trip is \$320 per person double occupancy, and \$298 per person triple occupancy. This price includes all transportation costs to and from Philadelphia; hotel accommodations and breakfast buffet; admission to the Flower Show and Longwood Gardens; the tea at the Flower Show; and all taxes, tips, and gratuities. An initial deposit of \$100 is due by January 12th.

For information and reservations, please call Terry, 786-6482, or Barbara, 562-1507.

The bus will pick up in both Agawam and Westfield.

Ag. Golden Age Club's Chap. 1 Calendar Of Events For Jan. 2000

Friday, Jan. 7th: Board of Directors' meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Wednesday, Jan. 12th: Regular meeting w/entertainment by The Good Tyme Singers from Springfield (under the direction of Dutch Werthamer).

Wednesday, Jan. 26th: Regular meeting. Gift Bingo.

Reminder to renew your membership for the millennium year - 2000. Membership open to all Agawam seniors who wish to join. Call Helen Rogers, Membership chairperson, 786-3756.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you...



AGAWAM BIG BROTHER ERIC PLASSE (left) shows the Big Brothers Big Sisters Internet website to his Little Brother, Jose Pagan, an electricity student at Putnam Vocational High School in Springfield.

Agawam Big Brother Eric Plasse Is A Mentor To His Little Brother

Big Brother Eric Plasse, 27, of Agawam believes that if we as a society are going to solve our social problems, we have to solve them one on one. "It's the little things that count," he observes.

That is what motivated Eric to become a Big Brother to Jose Pagan, 15, an electricity student at Roger L. Putnam Vocational High School in Springfield. Their match epitomizes the Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring concept as the community non-profit agency enters the new millennium.

Acting Locally

Eric, the oldest of three children, was brought up in a close knit Blandford family that believed in helping others. He graduated from St. Michael's College in Vermont where there were strong volunteer programs. He majored in economics at St. Michael's, but soon found himself working in the computer field and pursuing a second degree in computer science at Westfield State College.

Now, he is employed by Cornerstone Computer Consulting in Agawam writing software for a large Kansas utility company. With large clients such as Panasonic, the firm is a small, hi-tech company that embodies the philosophy to act locally, think globally. Larry White, Eric's boss, is proud of his volunteerism and supports his efforts.

Eric's job takes him to Kansas so often that he has accumulated 45,000 frequent flyer miles in the last four months. But, Eric finds the time to spend with Jose; he feels that their relationship is important and reflects what other Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers have stressed - that the time goes by fast when they are doing things together. "It is never a problem fulfilling my commitment to spend time with Jose," he said.

Waited Three Years

Jose, over six feet tall, loves basketball. He is an easy going person with a shy smile. He lives in a loving family with his mom and two sisters. He had been on the Big Brothers Big Sisters waiting

list for almost three years until he was matched with Eric by Big Brothers Big Sisters case manager Willard Cofield in July. Willard knew that Jose wanted a male in his life; that he needed a role model. "I'm glad to have a guy around," observes Jose.

They are a relatively new match and are still getting to know each other; but, already they have gone to the beach, enjoyed a backyard barbecue, gone out to eat, visited the mall, and went four-wheeling in the Berkshire mountains in Eric's truck. They have more outdoor activities planned, including camping and skiing.

For someone who makes his living using technology, it is not surprising that Eric became connected to Big Brothers Big Sisters through the Internet. He surfed the web looking for information and landed on the Big Brothers Big Sisters website maintained by recruitment director Charlie Bennett. Eric read the information posted on the site, and called Charlie.

Bennett invited him to attend one of the agency's regular information sessions at the West Springfield Library conducted by Willard Cofield.

Eric reflects: "I knew before I even went to Willard's orientation, that I wanted to volunteer. From what I learned about the program locally and nationally through Colin Powell's advocacy for mentoring, I knew it was how I wanted to give something back to the community."

After Eric applied to the program and was accepted, Willard told him that he had a boy in mind for him that he thought Eric would like. Eric saw that Jose's family was close knit like his own and he immediately hit it off with Jose's mom, Avigail.

Eric has already seen a positive change in Jose. Now they are headed into the new millennium feeling optimistic about the future.

For more information about the agency or volunteering to be a Big Brother or Big Sister, call 781-4730 or visit their website at www.bigbrothers-sisters.org.

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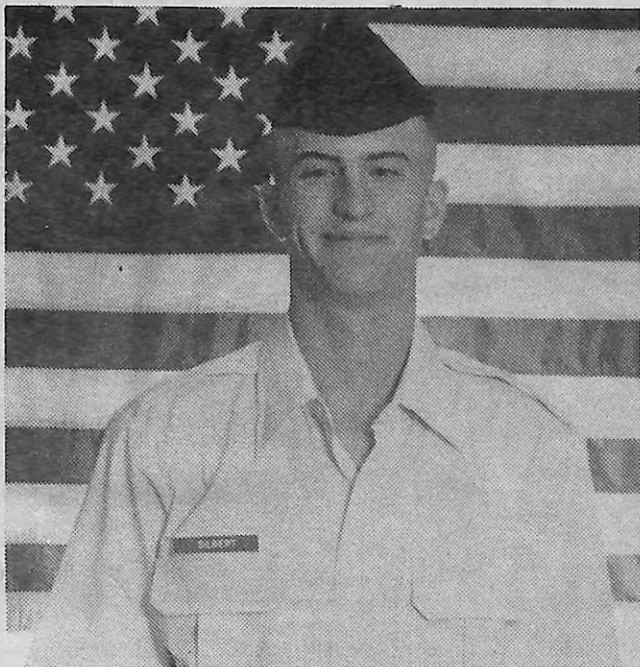
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AIRMAN RYAN D. GILBERT

Ryan D. Gilbert Graduates From USAF Basic Training

Air Force Airman Ryan D. Gilbert has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Gilbert is the son of Edward Gilbert of 96 Elmor Drive, Feeding Hills and Lynnelle Altamura of Agawam.

He is a 1999 graduate of Agawam High School.

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, January 10th: Shepherd's pie, carrot coins, rye bread, banana.

Tuesday, January 11th: Baked chicken leg, cheese baked potato, green beans, rye bread, tapioca pudding.

Wednesday, January 12th: Ziti, meatballs, tossed salad, Vienna bread, brownie.

Thursday, January 13th: Pork cutlet with gravy, mashed potatoes, spinach, whole wheat bread, apricots.

Friday, January 14th: Seafood casserole, egg noodles, tossed salad, breadsticks, plums.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 20, 2000 at 7:30 PM at the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of the Agawam Planning Board for a proposed amendment to the Agawam Zoning Ordinance, Section 180-112, entitled "Special Permit for Parking or Loading Requirement Reduction." A copy of the proposed zoning amendment can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office or the Agawam Town Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF Charles R. Calabrese, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
Published: January 6, 2000

* * *

For photo coverage in The AAN, call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice. Thank you.

* * *

Yuletide Fun At Heritage Hall...



GIRLS FROM TROOP 580 recently spread some holiday cheer to the residents of Heritage Hall. The youngsters sang Christmas songs and passed out homemade holiday cards. **IN TOP PHOTO:** Heritage Hall resident Margaret Mahoney provides musical accompaniment for the girls' singing. **IN PHOTO BELOW:** Rose Garneau, president of Heritage Hall's Residential Council, chats with the visiting Troop members.



DUE TO OUR BACKLOG OF PHOTOS, we will continue to publish various shots of Christmas season events in Agawam/Feeding Hills in next week's edition...

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Got A Hair, Nail, Or Beauty Problem? Send Us A Note, And We Will Answer It In Our Column...

Question: Dealing with cancer has left me looking and feeling so bad. Is there any help?

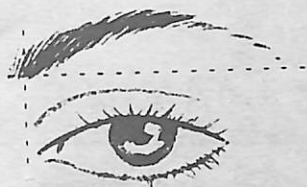
Answer: Dealing with a life-threatening disease is bad enough, but treatment can leave your appearance and self-esteem in a less-than-perfect state and can be a bit overwhelming. Dealing with the non-medical aspects of cancer is a critical part of a person's recovery.

Dark circles can be one problem. A cream or stick concealer under your foundation can blend this out. Remember that your foundation color may need to be adjusted from what you have been wearing, as your skin tone may have changed.

If you have extreme **skin discoloration**, consider color-correcting concealer. Yellow usually covers bluish/purple discoloration, and green helps with red. Don't forget to apply your foundation on top and blend gently with a cosmetic sponge.

Eyebrow loss can be corrected with a few easy tips and a soft-color eye pencil. Start by feeling for your brow bone. Brows should start in line with the eye's inner corner and fade gently toward the eye's outer corner, with both ends at approximately the same level.

The brow's width should taper only slightly from beginning to end. When looking straight ahead, the arch should be slightly off-center from the pupil.



If you are having a real down day, try treating yourself to a simple manicure. The hand massage and a funky color can change your whole day ... it doesn't take long at all!

DID YOU KNOW: Trained professional volunteers run co-ed group sessions for teens 13-17 who are undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatment for any kind of cancer. The session lasts about 1½ hours and has about 10 teens per group.

They deal with appearance and sociological side effects related to cancer and its treatment. Free materials are provided, including a teen guide; a recipe book of fun and easy recipes for teens with cancer; and a complimentary backpack with skin care items, make-up for girls, a baseball cap, and some hair products.

Sessions are in sections consisting of hair care (eyebrow loss, skin discoloration), hair care (choosing and caring for a wig or experiments with turbans and bandanas), nutrition (weight fluctuations), fitness, and social life.

Two locations in this area are at the Yale Cancer Center in New Haven, CT, and Boston's Children Hospital in Boston, MA.

Look Good Feel Better was created in 1989 and has a trained cancer information specialist on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That number is 1-800-395-LOOK.

A thought for a smile: a baby bird's first flight. Stop in and see Mary Ann, Jen, and Melissa and remember ... *Beauty is our Business!*

— WE MISS YOU, AMY —

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD**

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 20, 2000 at 7:00 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Fether, Inc. for a Definitive Subdivision Plan of Willow Glenn Estates II, a proposed forty-eight (48) lot subdivision to be located at the end of Lancaster Drive to Line Street.

Per order of Charles R. Calabrese, Chairman
AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD
Published: January 6, 2000

ADVERTISER NEWS

Amy LaPlante Engaged To Wed Kevin Quinlan

Mr. & Mrs. David LaPlante of Feeding Hills announce the engagement of their daughter, Amy LaPlante, to Kevin Quinlan of Duxbury, MA.

Miss LaPlante is a 1992 graduate of Agawam High School and a 1996 graduate of Bryant College. She is a Certified Public Accountant at PriceWaterhouseCoopers in Boston, where she is a tax specialist for high technology companies.

Mr. Quinlan is the son of John and Loretta Quinlan of Duxbury, formerly of Holden, MA. He is a 1989 graduate of Wachusett Regional High School in Holden and a 1993 graduate of Assumption College. Mr. Quinlan is the International Ambassador of Globel E-commerce at Reebok International Ltd. in Stoughton, MA.

A September wedding is planned.



KEVIN QUINLAN AND AMY LAPLANTE



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Mary Ann Dancers Entertain At Seniors' Holiday Luncheon

Everyone dances to their own tune, and in this season where there always seems so much to do and so little time, dancers from the Mary Ann Studio took some time out to share their joy of dancing.

Students from the Agawam studio accepted an invitation to perform at the Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon held at Chez Josef, sponsored by ABC tours.

Christina Sticco, Christine Gallant, Jodi Paulin, Savannah Vezina, Alyssa Zmaczynski, Andrea Prova, and Darcey Cavanaugh, all members of our young professional class, performed both a jazz number and a ballet number.

And who couldn't help but smile when our preschool students, Meghan Murphy, Brooke Standafer, Tracey Standafer, and Katherine Paltz, performed their tap routine to "I Love Somebody."

April Mosher, from our adult class, performed a tap solo to "Goody-Goody," music the seniors certainly remembered.

And let's not forget twins Janessa and Kayla Erskine from our tiny tot class, who gave their very first stage performance at the luncheon.

Students from the Mary Ann Dance Studio are always happy for the opportunity to entertain you with what they've been learning in class. And the guests at the Senior Luncheon certainly enjoyed the performance our dancers gave.

Agawam Catholic Singles Group To Meet On January 13th

The Agawam Catholic Singles Group meets on the second Thursday of every month at the Parish Center of St. John's on Main Street, Agawam.

Adults who are widowed, divorced, separated, or never married are welcome.

The next meeting will be January 13th at 7:00 p.m. and will feature "Swing Dance" lessons.

For further information, call Joanne at 789-0774 or John at 786-2273.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —



PERFORMING AT THE RECENTLY HELD Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon at Chez Josef: front row — Kayla Erskine, Janessa Erskine, and Katherine Palz; back row — Tracey Standafer, Brooke Standafer, and Megan Murphy.

At Feeding Hills Congregational Church...

Operation Friendship Of America To Hold Roast Beef Dinner On Saturday, January 8th

Operation Friendship of America, a non-profit youth cultural exchange program sponsored by the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, is having a Roast Beef Dinner on January 8th.

Dinner consists of roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, tossed salad, vegetable, bread and

butter, dessert, and beverage.

Serving is continuously from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Adults are \$7.50, children under 12 are \$4, and children under five are free.

Reservations are appreciated. Call 786-8743 or 786-9780. Walk-ins are welcome.

— Best local news with us - AAN!!! —

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* * *



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Menu includes:

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Tickets are available in advance at all services or by calling (413) 786-6133
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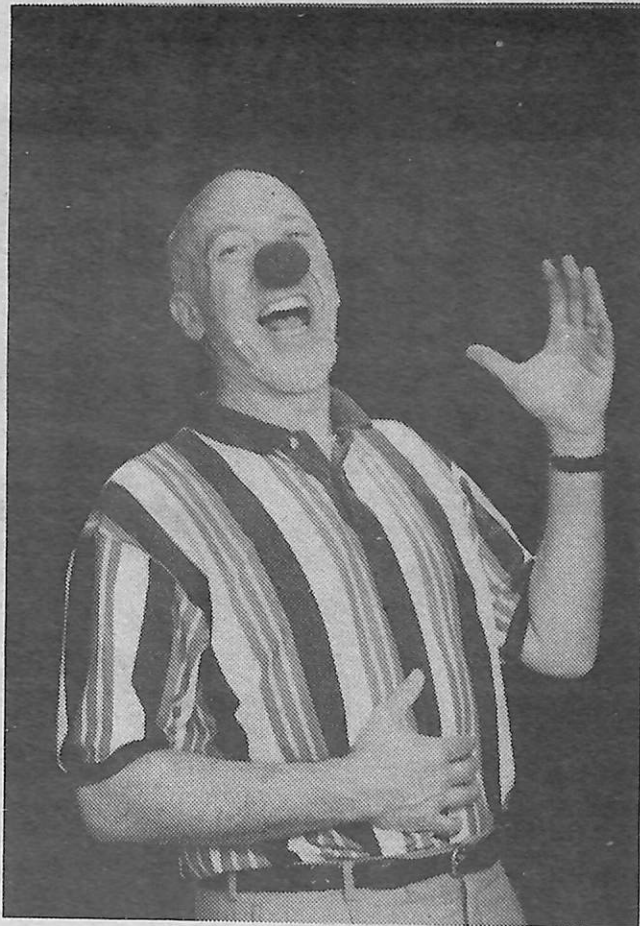


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DR. STEVE SOBEL

At Agawam Public Library...

Dr. Steve Sobel To Present Program On Laughter On Jan. 12th

Dr. Steve Sobel will present a program, "If You Are Not Laughing, You Are Now Living! — A Special Presentation to Decrease Terminal Seriousness, Cope with Stress, and Uplift Your Life!", on Wednesday, January 12th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. (The snow date is Wednesday, January 19th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.)

Last year, Dr. Sobel presented an enjoyable and informative program on using humor to reduce stress to a full house at the Agawam Public Library. This year's program promises to be an evening of joy and a relief from stress. Participants will come away with a renewed perspective and will feel better about what lies ahead, on and off the job.

Dr. Sobel addresses thousands of people annually, and has spoken for organizations such as Better Homes and Gardens, CVS, Mass. Mutual, Milton Bradley Corporation, General Electric, and *The Hartford Courant*. He is also the author of *The Good Times Handbook: Your Guide to Positive Living and Exciting Life*.

The program is free and open to the public. Please register in person or call (413) 789-1550.

Winter Preschool Programs To Begin At Agawam Library

Agawam Library's winter preschool programs begin the week of January 10th, and there are a few openings left in the toddler and family storytimes for Agawam and Feeding Hills families.

While the Monday PLAYGROUP is filled to capacity, parents not enrolled in this session may sign-up now for the March series.

Tuesday TODDLER TIMES are reserved specifically for toddlers aged two-and-a-half to three, and a parent or guardian. (No siblings, please.)

Wednesday or Thursday sessions are FAMILY STORYTIMES, and planned for preschoolers aged three and up, along with parents or guardians, and younger brothers or sisters.

All programs last from 10:00-10:30 a.m., followed by an hour of free play in the Community Room. Parents may sign-up for one of these weekly programs in person or by calling the library at 789-1550.

For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check our classified ads...

The Cooney Family Announces Birth Of 1st Son, Maxwell John

Ronald and Paula (Aversa) Cooney are pleased to announce the birth of their first son, Maxwell John.

Max was born at Harrington Memorial Hospital on July 19th, weighing eight pounds, 13 ounces and was 21 inches long.

The proud grandparents are Ronald and Joan Sieczkowski of Agawam, Richard and Joan Cooney of Worcester, and Robert and Judy Aversa of Ware.

Please remember to patronize your local businesses ... AAN!!!



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Beef Round Stew Beef	\$2.69 Lb.
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5 Lbs. Or More	\$2.49 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
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5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.69 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.39 Lb.
Boneless Center Cut Pork Roast	\$2.89 Lb.
Boneless Center Cut Pork Cutlets	\$2.99 Lb.
Center Cut Pork Chops (Bone In)	\$1.99 Lb.
Grade "A" Skinless & Boneless Chicken Breast	\$1.99 Lb.

DAIRY & FROZEN

Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.19
Hood Skim Milk (Gallon)	\$2.29
Grade "A" Jumbo Eggs (Dozen)	99¢
Friendly Ice Cream (½ Gallon) 2 For	\$6.00

SEAFOOD

Frozen Swordfish Steaks	\$3.99 Lb.
Frozen Breaded Fish Cakes	\$1.29 Lb.

PRODUCE

Bananas	39¢ Lb.
Sweet Clementines	3 For \$1.00
Florida Pink Grapefruit	3 For \$1.00
Mini Carrots (1 Lb. Bag)	99¢
Super Select Cucumbers	39¢ Each
Large Sweet Onions	69¢ Lb.

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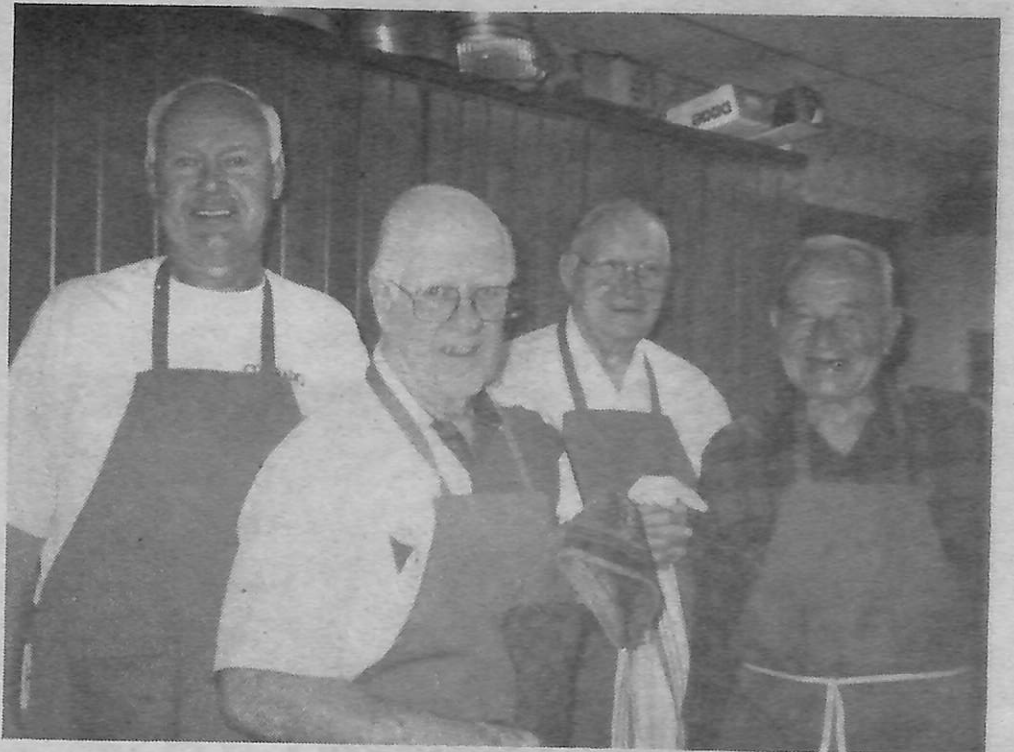
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“Bazaar” Saturdays In Agawam...



Cooking and serving lunch at the Agawam Congregational Church's recently held holiday bazaar (from left to right): Grace Tilden, Mary Jane Stuart, Sue Peckham, and Marilyn Brown. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



Helping to clean up after the holiday bazaar at Agawam Congregational Church (from left to right): Bill Ekstedt, Al Peckham, Al Kelley, and John Hauser. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



Nell Freyer, Corinne Pierson, and Helen Robbins sold various wares at Agawam Congregational Church's holiday bazaar. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



Ruth Blanch and Clarice Scoville manned a table featuring breads and other baked goodies at Agawam Congregational's holiday bazaar. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



Rose-Marie Slosek was just one of the dealers at this year's holiday bazaar at Agawam Congregational Church. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



Peter Ober (left) bought a raffle ticket from Barbara Gagnon at the Agawam Congregational Church's recently held holiday bazaar. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

"Bazaar" Saturdays In Agawam...



At Agawam Congregational Church's holiday bazaar: in left photo — Dot Coon, Doris Preston (president of the Ladies Aid Society), and Jim Randolph; in right photo — Bob McKeever, Joel Nawskon, and Ed Nawskon sold wreaths for the church's Youth Group. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



Heritage Hall recently held its Christmas bazaar, which allowed the residents to sell their crafts as gifts for yuletide giving. In left photo — Sandra Lynch and Priscilla Pelletier. In right photo — Rose Bajurny (seated) with Norma Harris, Kay Babcock, and Deb Evang. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



At the Grange Hall's holiday bazaar: in left photo — Evelyn Cordi, Priscilla Magagnoli, and Pauline Sosnowich with items that were to be raffled off; in right photo — area residents did some of their Christmas shopping at the Grange. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



“Bazaar” Saturdays In Agawam...



In left photo: Clark Greenough, Jenny Cashman, Alice Casey, and Gerry Cashman took a break from shopping at Agawam Baptist Church's recently held holiday bazaar. In right photo: Randy Spaulding provided some entertainment on the keyboard at Agawam Baptist Church's bazaar. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



Robert Magovern (church historian) and Peggy Magovern having lunch at the Agawam Baptist Church's holiday bazaar (“Picnic in the Park”). Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



Enjoying themselves at Agawam Baptist Church's bazaar: back row — Norma Menell, Randy Spaulding, and Elaine Attanasio; front row — Sheri Spaulding. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



Yoshi Hayden, Joyce Geiger, Lillian White, Mallori Grimaldi, and Rachel Bailey with just some of their “stuffed” friends at Agawam Baptist Church's holiday bazaar. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



DUE TO OUR BACKLOG OF PHOTOS, we will continue to publish various shots of Christmas season events in Agawam/Feeding Hills in next week's edition...



“Bazaar” Saturdays In Agawam...



On Saturday, December 4th, St. John's Church held its annual Christmas bazaar from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In left photo — Jessica Schmidt discusses her Christmas “wish list” with Santa Claus. In right photo — Elaine Smith (Bake Booth), Alwyn Shepard (co-chair, Bountiful Basket), Bea Hamel (co-chair, Bountiful Basket), Jane Schmidt (co-chair, Attic Treasures), and Paulene Paquette (co-chair, Attic Treasures). Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



At St. John's Christmas bazaar: in left photo — Bob Stack purchased tickets for a cash drawing from Dot Frenette, Kay Muzzy, and Lorraine Maniscalchi; in right photo — Jewelry Booth chairpeople Jackie Morgan, Bernice Consolini, and Penny DeForge, and publicity person Jane Trevethan. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.



In left photo — Joan Malinoski (president, Catholic Women's Club), Charlotte Bodurtha (president, St. John's Guild), and Christmas Decoration Booth chairpersons Kay Capitanio and Adelle Gallano at St. John's annual Christmas bazaar. In right photo — Bazaar chairpersons Betsy Ciempa and Gloria Colby with Lil Doyle (who chaired the Sewing Booth). Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

Church News

St. John's Parish News And Notes

NOCTURNAL ADORATION SOCIETY

The Nocturnal Adoration Society will meet here at St. John's this Friday, January 7th, at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to come and spend an hour in adoration.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

The Catholic Women's Club will open the new year with a Pot Luck Supper on January 10th at 6:00 p.m. (All members should have been contacted by a member of the Board by January 2nd.)

Members are asked to bring ONE item for the Penny Auction which will follow the meal.

KUDOS TO OUR BUDDING ARTISTS

We salute our young people who participated in the "True Meaning of Christmas Contest."

You may have noticed their entries posted on the bulletin boards in the church:

Kristen McCaslin, Nicole DiSimone, Joseph Marsh, Joseph Slaimen, Christina Blanchard, Leah Marsh, Danny Anderson, Daniel Polaski, Brianna Maggi, Kelsey Caroleo, Ashley Carmel, Nicholas Abraham, Kristen Cardaropoli, Michael Counos, Alexandra O'Neill, and Frank Payeur.

MILLENNIUM BREAKFASTS

Our monthly Millennium Breakfasts will begin this Sunday, January 9th, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. This event is being sponsored by your Parish Council members.

A different parish group will host these breakfasts throughout the year 2000. Please plan on joining with them.

OVER-60 CLUB

A trip to the Bushnell in Hartford to see "Ragtime" will take place on January 16th at 2:00 p.m. The bus will leave St. John's at 12:30 p.m. and return by 5:45 p.m.

For those who signed up, the money is due anytime and is paid to Lil. Cost is \$58.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1999

The form for contributions to the parish for 1999 will be available soon.

We will let you know when they can be picked up at the Parish Office.

AGAWAM CATHOLIC SINGLES CLUB

Our Parish Singles Club meets on the second Thursday of each month in the Parish Center.

The January 13th meeting will feature a Swing Dance Demo by Jeff.

New members are always welcome. Call Joann, 789-0774, or John, 786-2273.

"Church News" is just one reason why you turn our pages each and every week ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

* * *



Grace Baptist Church

475 Pine Street, Feeding Hills
Pastor Carmen A. Rizzo

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Schedule Of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 A.M. - Sunday School
10:30 A.M. - Morning Service

Series - "Biblical Portraits"
(Role Models For Today)
6:00 P.M. - Evening Services
Series - "Immortality"

FRIDAY

6:30 - 8:30 P.M. - Awana Clubs Youth Program
Adult Series:
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Reflections...

submitted by

Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the New Life
Christian Church,
Suffield, CT
(413) 789-1377 or
toll free (877) 643-9801

New Year's Resolutions...

Each New Year's Day, many of us make New Year's resolutions. Many times, the resolutions we make are good. We usually struggle to keep them, and oftentimes they go by the wayside shortly into the new year. For example, many of us would weigh a minus 25 pounds by now if we'd kept all those resolutions to lose weight and to modify our eating habits!

The Bible is full of suggestions and directions which would qualify as being worthy of being New Year's resolutions. Three of them are found in the first Psalm, and are accompanied by a promise that if we keep these resolutions, we will be greatly blessed. **Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers.** These are resolutions each of us can and should endeavor to keep.

Blessed is the person ... who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked. In order to understand this first resolution, we must first understand what the Bible means by the use of the word "wicked" in this passage. It doesn't mean a person who is evil or bad. Another translation of the word "wicked" is "ungodly." To be "ungodly" simply means to be without, or apart from, God in one's life. There are plenty of nice and good people who are ungodly. They can be good or bad; what makes them ungodly is that they don't have a personal relationship with God.

There are only two kinds of people in the world. The distinction is not about being **Jew or Gentile, slave nor free, male or female**; the distinction is there are some people who know they are loved by God and some who don't know they're loved by God. Please understand that everybody is loved by God; **for God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.** But not everybody knows they're loved by God; **He was in the world, and though the world was made by Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.** Those who know they're loved by God receive Him; those who don't, don't.

When the Bible instructs us to not walk in the

counsel of the wicked, it is telling us not to be guided by the ways of the world. The world's ways, through sometimes well-intentioned, are wrong when they conflict with God's ways. For example, when we are offended or attacked by another person, we tend to react with what we might call "righteous indignation." However, the Bible tells us, **people's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.**

In other words, there is no such thing as "righteous indignation" when it comes to people. The world says, "express your anger!" God says, **in your anger do not sin; when on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.** The world's way of handling anger is never the end of the matter. Instead of releasing and ridding ourselves of our anger, our experience is that our anger grows with expression and acting out.

God's way is much better: we won't say or do things we later regret, we should consider our own part in the conflict, and we should **humble ourselves under God's mighty hand, that He may lift us up in due time; we should cast all our anxiety upon Him because He cares for us.**

Blessed is the person ... who does not stand in the way of sinners. The vast majority of the time, we don't need to be told what is right and what is wrong. Our trouble is not knowing what is right, but rather, choosing to do what we know is right. Our challenges come up when we choose to allow ourselves to be tempted with temptations which are greater than our ability to resist them.

But the temptations don't start out being greater. They grow stronger as we allow them more space in our lives. A wise preacher once said about lust, "It's not the first look which gets you, it's the second." If we decide at the beginning not to **stand in the way of sinners**, that is, we determine to nip known sin in the bud, we'll truly be blessed, and be much happier people.

Blessed is the person ... who does not sit in the seat of mockers. By obeying this simple admonition, we can avoid two major errors in life. Jesus said, **"Do not judge, or you too will be judged."** We cannot mock others without judging them first. Mockery is a sarcastic form of judging other people.

The Bible says, **there is only one Lawgiver and Judge; who are you to judge your neighbor?** Secondly, the Bible instructs us to **do everything without complaining.** It is not possible to mock others without complaining, because mockery is also a form of complaining.

Mockery is fault finding, which sends us down a path of misery. God wants to spare us, as well as those we're tempted to mock, that misery.

The first psalm gives us practical ways to be blessed, which are easy to follow, with God's help. If we try it, we'll always find that God's way is the best way! If we do what He says, we will truly have a Happy New Year.

"Reflections" is a regular feature of The AAN...

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Church News - continued...

News And Notes From Feeding Hills Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Our Sunday morning service of worship begins at 10:00 a.m. and this week will include the Service of Holy Communion. Rev. Donaldson returns from vacation and will preach a sermon entitled "Receiving God's Blessing." Ushers will be Diane Lindeland and Connie Haynes. Evelyn Nodland will be our Coffee Hour Hostess. Sunday School resumes this week. Nursery care will be provided for the very young.

January 9th is Parish Cupboard Sunday. Bags of groceries and articles of clean clothing are needed. If you prefer to give a cash donation, there will be envelopes available on the collection table.

Volunteers are needed to make desserts for the Parish Cupboard on Wednesday, January 12th. If you are able to make a dessert (brownies, sheet cake, cookies, etc.), please have your contribution to the church kitchen by noon on Wednesday. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in Griswold Hall.

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 6, 2000. Annual Reports will be due in the Church Office before Monday, January 24th. This means all reports!

Operation Friendship will serve a delicious Roast Beef Dinner here on Saturday, January 8th from 5:00-6:30 p.m. The young people involved with this group will be traveling this summer and need your support.

The Board of Deacons would like everyone to help take down the holiday decorations on Saturday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m. This may not be as festive as putting them up, but the job is not a difficult one if there are enough helpers.

On the calendar:

Friday, Jan. 7th: 6:00 p.m., Wedding; 7:00 p.m., Radio Club

Saturday, Jan. 8th: 5:00 p.m., Operation Friendship supper; 6:30 p.m., Un-greening of church

Sunday, Jan. 9th: 10:00 a.m., Communion/Parish Cupboard Sunday; 12:00 noon-8:00 p.m., Church of Redemption

Monday, Jan. 10th: 4:00 p.m., Daisy Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Cub Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Trustees; 7:30 p.m., Christian Ed

Tuesday, Jan. 11th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:00 p.m., Stewardship/Missions

Wednesday, Jan. 12th: Parish Cupboard desserts needed; 2:45 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Choir; 7:30 p.m., Cub Scout Committee

Thursday, Jan. 13th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:00-9:00 p.m., Church of Redemption Bible study

Roast Pork Dinner Slated At Agawam Congregational

The Catering Committee of the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam, invites you to their Roast Pork Dinner to be served on Saturday, January 22nd, at 5:30 p.m.

Cost for the dinner is \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under.

You may call the church office at 786-7111 with your reservations. (Reservations will close on Friday, January 21st, at 12:00 noon.)

Free Orientation Meeting For "Weigh Down Workshop"

A free orientation meeting for a "Weigh Down Workshop" will take place on January 18th at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will take place at the Crossroads Christian Fellowship, 522 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

For more information, call 786-5918.

Check our classified ads in each edition ... AAN!!!

Calendar From Ag. Congregational

The First Sunday after Epiphany (January 9th) will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. at the Agawam Congregational Church (745 Main Street, Agawam).

Church school will be at 9:00 a.m. for seventh-through 12th-graders, and at 10:30 a.m. for Crib Room through sixth-graders (with worship at 10:30 a.m.).

Dr. Eric Bascom, interim pastor, will preach on "The Major Functions of a Christian Church."

Men are invited to join the Men's Prayer Time, which meets at 7:45 each Tuesday morning.

We read from the devotional guide "Upper Room" for meditation and discussion, with time for coffee and fellowship.

Rev. Eric Bascom's book, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Pulpit," will continue to be on sale.

The \$10 book may be purchased at the church office.

Mark your calendars TODAY!!! The Catering Committee will hold a Pork Roast Dinner on Saturday, January 22nd, at 5:30 p.m.

You may call the church (786-7111) with your reservation.

For more information concerning any of our events, please call the church office at 786-7111.

Annual Pot Luck Supper By Catholic Women's Club

The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will meet in the Parish Center of Saint John the Evangelist Church on Monday, January 10th, at 6:00 p.m. for their annual Pot Luck Supper.

This year's Pot Luck Supper will be hosted by club president Joan Malinoski and the Executive Board. The evening meal will begin with a salad bar, followed by a medley of delicious foods prepared by club members. Hospitality chairperson for this event is Eleanor Balboni.

A Penny Auction will be held after a brief business meeting. Again, new members are welcome!

ADVERTISER NEWS



Forgetting those things which are behind
and reaching forth unto those things which
are before, I press forward.

Happy New Year
from

Dr. Tami Nelson and Family



Hampden County Chiropractic
850 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030
786-4820

St. David's Church To Host Roast Pork Dinner On Jan. 10th

St. David's Episcopal Church will be hosting a Roast Pork Dinner on Monday, January 10th, at 6:00 p.m. The dinner will be held at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

The menu will include roast pork, mashed potatoes, assorted vegetables, tossed salad, bread and butter, coffee, tea and juice, and dessert.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. These may be purchased in advance at St. David's or at the door.

Due to a sell-out on most of last year's dinners, we will be unable to hold unpaid reservations past 6:30 p.m. without prior arrangements.

Proceeds from this dinner will go towards the debt reduction of the new church building.

For more information, please call (413) 786-6133.

January Calendar Of Events At Faith Bible Church in Agawam

Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m., Sunday School; 10:00 a.m., Service.

Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Book of Revelation.

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m., Prayer; 7:00 p.m., Weeknight Service.

Friday: 6:30 p.m., Youth Group meets.

January 28th: Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30 p.m. (All are welcome.)

Faith Bible Church is located at 370 Shoemaker Lane in Agawam.

Ham & Bean Supper At 1st Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Agawam, corner of Main & Elm Streets, Agawam, invites you to its family-style "Ham and Bean Supper" to be held January 15th.

Serving times are 4:45 p.m. or 6:15 p.m. Cost for adults is \$7.50; children under 10, \$3.

The menu will include baked ham, homemade beans, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, coffee, tea or milk, and assorted homemade pies.

For reservations, call 786-8624, 786-8209, or 789-1481. If you find you are unable to honor your reservations, please call and cancel.



Spotlight On Business

Agawam Chamber Begins "Year 2000" Campaign

Good news for business is coming in your mail. To kick-off a "Year 2000" outreach campaign, the Agawam Chamber is mailing every business in the Agawam/Feeding Hills area an information card that acts as a quick overview of the tangible benefits offered to businesses by the Agawam Chamber.

"Information is critical to the success of any business, and our Chamber business benefits information card is designed to get the information about valuable member benefits and discounts directly into the hands of the business owners, big and small," said Linda Northup Vitro, president of the Agawam Chamber.

The Chamber's goal is to increase awareness of the benefits of belonging to both current business members and prospective members. "Many businesses are familiar with the basic value of the Chamber's referral directory and web site listings, and the power of networking at Chamber events, but there's a lot more," Northup Vitro added.

In 1999, the Chamber introduced a Credit/Debit Transaction Fee Discount Program. For any business that regularly takes ATM/Debit or credit cards this program may be able to reduce the significant processing fee determined by the average transaction and annual volume of credit card business. The discount program available to Chamber members has no additional application or monthly service fee.

For those businesses that use natural gas, the Chamber Energy Coalition offers savings of 15-25 percent on natural gas usage. The Chamber also offers group health insurance, long distance phone service savings, and cellular phone discounts for consideration.

"Membership in the Chamber of Commerce is a marketing investment that pays for itself in the very first month," said Northup Vitro. Every business that joins the Chamber benefits from the directory listing and new member introductions. "I'm proud of our outreach campaign and I'd like to think that by familiarizing oneself with one or more of the discounts listed on our benefits card our local businesses in Agawam can position themselves to save real dollars this coming year," said Northup Vitro.

For more information about membership in the Agawam Chamber of Commerce, call 787-1555.

Best local news with us...



AGAWAM BUSINESS MEMBERS review the new Chamber information card. From left to right: Rick Bellico, Woronoco Savings Bank; Denise Vogel, Western Massachusetts Electric Company; Linda Northup Vitro, Northup Electric; and Brook Ashby, Penfield Productions.

Pam Savioli

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"Still Home" While You're Away From Home...

If you're going to be gone for an extended period of time, you need to create the illusion you're still at home:

- Stop mail and paper delivery, or have a trustworthy person pick them up.
- Don't indicate that you're away on your voice mail.
- Turn your telephone ringer off or down so it can't be heard outside.
- Put lights, radios, and televisions on timers.
- Leave curtains, shades, and blinds in normal positions.
- Arrange for yard maintenance (mowing, snow removal, etc.).
- Ask trusted neighbors to watch your home while you're away.

Call PAM SAVIOLI — a full-time Realtor with professionalism, knowledge, and experience — to help you buy or sell a home. Call her at (413) 748-7565.

* * * * *

DUE TO OUR BACKLOG OF PHOTOS, we will continue to publish various shots of Christmas season events in Agawam/Feeding Hills in next week's edition...

* * * * *



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MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

An inheritance
incorruptible and
undefiled [is] reserved
in heaven for you.
—1 Peter 1:4

As early as 1995, reservations were being made in fashionable hotels and resorts for celebrating New Year's Eve 1999. According to writer Calvin McDowell in *The New York Times*, the London Savoy had by then been twice overbooked. Although the charge for the evening was \$1,000, the Rainbow Room in New York City had a waiting list. So did the Waldorf-Astoria. Reservations were hard to get.

For many people, the end of the 1900s and the dawning of a new millennium brings with it the hope that life will be different. Yet one doesn't have to be endowed with the gift of prophecy to know that life is destined to continue as it was in the last millennium. For example, we can be

sure that death will continue to be inescapable. We know that no one today will live to see the year 3000.

Because death is inescapable, we must answer this very thought-provoking and personal question: Have you made sure of your heavenly reservations? It's not too late. You need to put your trust in Jesus Christ now for forgiveness and cleansing of your sin. You then will have a guaranteed reservation for that home in glory (Jn. 14:2), and you can be assured that you'll celebrate with the Lord for all eternity. Make your reservation today! —VCG

*There is a place reserved in heaven
For all who have believed;
Eternal life is freely given
When humbly it's received. —Sper*

IT'S NEVER TOO SOON TO PLAN FOR ETERNITY.

For Your Health

Support Groups, Courses, & Programs At Noble Hospital

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous: Sunday evenings, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.

Free of charge. All are welcome.

Stroke Support Group: Wednesdays, January 12th & 26th, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from a stroke and their spouses, caregivers, and other interested persons.

The topics of these meetings will be announced. Participants are encouraged to suggest topics for future meetings.

Call Barbara Boulanger, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W., at 568-2811, ext. 5809.

Better Breathers: Wednesday, January 12th, 2:00 p.m. In the Third Floor Cardiopulmonary Classroom at Noble Hospital.

The topic of this meeting will be "Pulmonary Potpourri."

Please call ahead and tell us the topics you would like to discuss. Free of charge and open to individuals with respiratory or pulmonary difficulties and their support persons.

Please call (413) 568-2811, ext. 5986 with topics. **Diabetes:** Tuesday, January 25th, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals who have diabetes and their support persons.

For more information, call Karen Ranen, M.S., R.N., C.D.E., at (413) 572-5178.

COURSES/PROGRAMS/CLINICS

Smoking Cessation Program - "Forgetting Cigarettes" with Joseph Barako, R.N., Certified Hypnotherapist: Sundays, January 9th and 16th, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. In the Bronson Music Room at Noble Hospital.

This two-part program uses hypnosis to eliminate your desire for smoking and allows you to forget cigarettes forever. The registration fee for this program is \$40 and is paid the evening of the first session.

Seating is limited, and pre-registration is necessary. To pre-register or for more information, call Noble Hospital's HEALTH BEAT at (413) 568-2328.

Urinary Incontinence: An Update And New Treatments. Lecture with Ronald Catanesi, M.D. (a board-certified urologist on staff at Noble Hospital). Wednesday, January 12th. Two times available: 1:00 and 6:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

The lecture is free-of-charge and open to the public. Seating is limited, and advance registration is required.

To register, call Noble Hospital's HEALTH BEAT at (413) 568-2328.

Cosmetic/Plastic Surgery with Dr. Gary Russolillo: Tuesday, January 18th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. In Conference Room B at Noble Hospital.

Gary Russolillo, M.D., will present a lecture about Body Contouring Surgeries, Lip Enhancements, Facial Surgeries, and Skin Care Procedures. Also included will be a live chemical peel demonstration.

The presentation will be followed by a complimentary personal consultation. Registration is free, and seating is limited.

Pre-registration is required. To register, call Noble Hospital's HEALTH BEAT at (413) 568-2328.

CPR Course: Wednesdays, January 19th & 26th, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. In the Education Department/Ground Floor at Noble Hospital.

This two-part course provides American Heart Association Adult, Child, and Infant Certification. The cost of the course is \$45.

To register or obtain more information, call Noble Hospital's Education Department at (413) 572-5172.

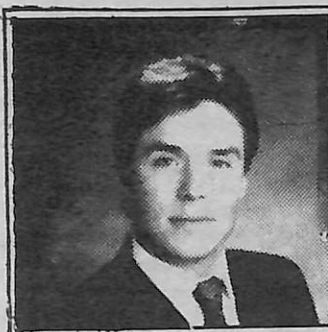
Coping In The New Millennium: A presentation by Judi Orr, R.N., M.S., Program Director, Noble Hospital Psychiatric Services. Thursday, January 20th, 2:00 p.m. Crane Building Auditorium, The American Inn at Sawmill Park, Route 202, Southwick.

More often than not, our daily lives are a juggling act. From time to time, all of us are subject to events that can disrupt our plans and sometimes interrupt our lives and dreams.

Judi Orr will talk about creating balance in your life, the signs and symptoms of stress, and strategies for regaining balance.

This program is free of charge and open to the public. Call HEALTH BEAT at (413) 568-2328 to register and for directions. Refreshments provided.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —



Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

Injuries Related To Ice Hockey...

Recently, a player on a local ice hockey team entered my office with a complaint of neck pain and numbness in the arm and hand. He had been hit hard by an opponent who drove him into the boards.

The result was dramatic — whiplash injury to the cervical spine (neck). Misaligned spinal vertebrae were compressing the brachial plexus, a large network of nerves that originate in the

neck and run into the arm/hand. No wonder this young athlete (who was in superb physical condition) was in pain. Nerves were being pinched.

The unfortunate and frustrating part is that this player had been examined and unsuccessfully treated by local medical physicians. He was not referred for appropriate chiropractic treatment.

Chiropractic treatment has alleviated the pain and is now working to restore proper function to the neck.

Ice hockey is a rough, tough sport, and it attracts thousands of New England youngsters each winter. Unfortunately, the physical brutality of this game generates health problems that can last a lifetime.

Parents, if your children are involved in this traumatic sport, you owe it to them to have periodic chiropractic examinations. Not so easily detected are the misaligned or damaged vertebra in the spinal column.

The SCHLAFFER CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE, 192 Shoemaker Lane, emphasizes the health of Agawam's athletes and is well-equipped to examine and treat those who have been injured. Call us at 789-1369.



Chiropractic Care by

Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic Physician
Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

Hi Ho, Hi Ho, Here Comes The Snow!

It's that time again, time to pull out the gloves, boots, and shovels! This is often the time I see many patients coming in with acute low back pain.

Why? Because they think they can jump out-

side and shovel wet, heavy snow for hours without a problem (does this sound familiar?). Sooo, let's start out right this winter.

1. Stretch. I know, I know. I'm always harping about this, but it is important to loosen the muscles before actively using them.

2. Keep your back straight. Your back is the strongest in this position. Remember to keep your spine straight and try not to twist. Most injuries occur during the twisting and bending motion.

3. Utilize your leg muscles - they're very strong. Keep a slight bend in the knees and in the hips.

4. If you are sore after shoveling, apply ice to the low back for 10-15 minutes each hour. Ice decreases the pain.

If pain lasts longer than 24 hours, if very painful, or if any radiation into the legs, contact a chiropractor!

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills.

Updates On Senior Pharmacy Prog.

State Representative Dan Keenan is pleased to announce enhancements made to the Senior Pharmacy Program. The enhanced program includes an additional \$21.7 million for expanded eligibility and benefits.

The \$51.7 million program provides \$1,250 in annual outpatient prescription drug assistance to seniors and qualified individuals whose annual income is below 188 percent of the federal poverty level (\$15,491), and who have exhausted other sources of prescription drug coverage.

"I am both proud and pleased with the enhancements made to the Senior Pharmacy Program. The final outcome demonstrates a greater commitment to the needs of our seniors and an effort to address the growing cost of prescription drugs," said Keenan.

The conference report also expands benefits

for other seniors and qualified disabled individuals whose income does not allow them to participate in the Senior Pharmacy Program. It included an additional \$20 million for a temporary, unlimited benefit, catastrophic prescription drug program for those who suffer the burden of excessive prescription drug costs.

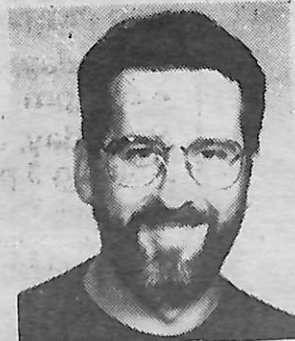
"I believe that these changes will help alleviate the financial concern that costly prescription drugs pose for seniors and disabled people in our community," expressed Keenan.

Seniors and disabled individuals who are interested in participating in the Senior Pharmacy Program can contact the Executive Office of Elder Affairs at (617) 727-7750, the Senior Pharmacy Program at (800) 953-3305, the local Council on Aging, or local Aging Services Access Program.

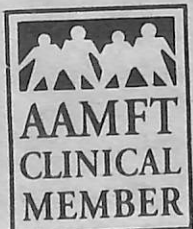
... when change means being different.

Read more about this in today's *FOR YOUR HEALTH* column.

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e-mail address: **dpmft449@aol.com**

For Your Health - continued...



Fitness Tips...

by
Carmela Kirk, R.N.
Fitness Director
Fitness First

Fitness Tips...

Exercise & Aging

by Carmela A. Kirk, RN
Fitness Director, Fitness First

Everyone is aging. There is this natural progression of time that we seem to ignore sometimes, until something (or someone) brings it to our attention.

The holidays seemed to wipe me out this year. After it was all over, I was totally drained. If you are at all like me, you work hard and figure you'll rest later, take a break when it is all over. Unfortunately, it never seems to be over.

When I mentioned I was wiped out, someone told me I was just getting older. (Then they say the look on my face and regretted the statement immediately.) Everyone is getting older; there is only one other option. There is this natural progression, but there is also a very powerful force that directly combats this progression. It is the only proven, all natural, doctor (and nurse) recommended, antidote to aging. It is called exercise.

A sedentary life will lead you to a slower mind, being a little off balance, weak stomach muscles which lead to low back strain, knee problems, limited shoulder mobility, a fear of falling or being injured easily, and an overall less than satisfying lifestyle.

Or, you can exercise and enhance your physical activity. Whatever you are doing now, do more. Work out longer, learn something new, enjoy it more, focus on the health benefits. When thinking about exercise, especially your exercise routine, think holistically. What I mean is, look at its effect on your whole being. Your activities should improve your function, stimulate your mind, and soothe your soul. This is how it combats aging. You see, aging is simply the wear and tear of your body, mind, and soul.

Rank education high on your list of priorities when it comes to your wellness routine. One-on-one versus group education is your choice. Just like a personal trainer versus group exercise class is your choice. You need to trust your chosen teacher. Your guide should be well versed in exercise, nutrition, relaxation, flexibility, and health issues. You may choose a few different people that you trust with your questions. Be sure they listen just as much as give advice; they should be consistent and credible.

We are all aging. We are all somewhat active on some level. Enhance this level and you can fight the fatigue, the imbalance, the insecurity, the obesity, the aches, and the pains. My response to that person was simple, "Yes, I'm getting older, but those are not the effects I'm feeling. I'm feeling the effects of not listening to my body and resting when I needed rest."

Exercise is simple, it is powerful, and it is the only cure we have for this thing called aging.

Check our classified ads...



Cecilia P. Calabrese

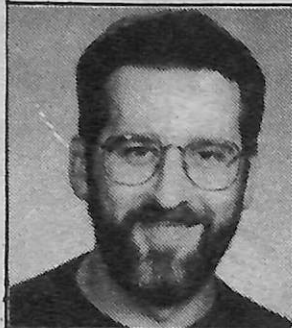
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"Let's Talk About It"

by Dan Pender
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Has Anything Really Changed?

"Nothing will change just because the calendar switched to the year 2000." This reality was expressed by an 11-year-old boy interviewed for his thoughts on the New Year's Day show of Nickelodeon. He went on to say (paraphrasing) that *each day we must face that day's challenge to live our life the best way we can. It's all about how well we take care of our-self and how this will make all the difference in how we care for everybody else.*

Do you believe what this young person thinks? Or do you think he's just stating the obvious problem with kids today, namely, that it's all about them first and others later?

What if this 11-year-old has captured an important truth? Facing this truth could scare you. This truth could actually lead many adults away from real relationship with children and even from being with other adults? This truth makes it real clear that change, making a difference, *starts with caring for your self.*

While children have a strong natural desire to do care for themselves, many adults typically relate by overly focusing on others and not taking care of themselves.

Some adults I know are struggling to get to a place where putting self first is a possibility. Others are not even aware that this possibility might benefit them and those around them. While others are so consumed with themselves that responsibilities to others has gotten way out of balance.

Those who are able to meet the challenge of reaching a balance between caring for self and other seem to be able to really make a difference, make changes. They are able to make connections with themselves and others on many levels a la how a child is naturally capable.

tions with themselves and others on many levels a la how a child is naturally capable.

The problem for many adults, as I see it, is connected to the limitations and constraints on one's time, energy, and perspective. How these factors are managed can contribute to how easily we put our-self on the back burner all too often and for much too long. Hoping into the possibility that someday, "I'll get it right!" and, "If only there was more ... time, then I could make the changes I know I need to make!"

So, does *change* happen for you by attempting yet another New Year's resolution? Has this ever worked for you before? If not, do you think putting something in place now will help make a difference in your life?

Many people prefer not to use the word *change*, preferring instead the word *different* as used in the popular slogan for Dodge automobile commercials. For many, the word *change* somehow brings up the idea that things are *not* possible, while the word *different* is possible, sexy, and it sells.

Well then, is your life any *different* than you've always wanted it to be? What has helped it become different? Or what holds you back? What's keeping you stuck? Those of you who have children and/or relate to children, what can be learned from them about being different and accepting others who are different?

I think the word *different* is a real good word given a choice between it and the word *change*. *Change* implies doing it differently, whereas *different* can invite tolerance of our differences.

Perhaps there is something to be said about the two co-existing. What do you think?

The complexity of change.

"Let's Talk about it" is a regular weekly feature from Dan Pender, MA., M.F.T. Marriage & Family Therapist. Dan maintains a private practice in Agawam, MA. He is a Clinical member of the American Association of Marriage & Family Therapy. He is also a local professional Church educator and can be reached by e-mail (AOL screen name: dpmft449) or P.O. Box 449, Agawam, MA 01001, (413) 789-4460. Please respond with your feedback, relationship questions and topics and "Let Talk about it."

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 20, 2000 at 7:15 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of the Town of Agawam for an amendment to the Definitive Subdivision Plan of Juniper Ridge Estates regarding sidewalks.

By Order of Charles R. Calabrese, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board

Published: January 6, 2000

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, January 13, 2000 at 7:15 P.M. in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Longhi for property located at 79 Meadow Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

Published: January 6, 2000

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Arts

Artist Adds Touch Of Dreams To Decorative Painting

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

Claudine Bouchard Collins grew up in Agawam (Feeding Hills) and learned decorative painting from her family. Her reputation as a professional decorative painter is growing in this region and the former Agawam High graduate is in demand.

"My grandfather, Marcel Bouchard, was a painter and paper hanger and was also an artist in mediums such as paintings and carvings. My father, Andrew Bouchard, still paints and papers," she told us.

Claudine's technique of wall painting in customers' homes has become extremely popular. She will use any technique requested by a customer and has already successfully used the rag method, a sponge technique, woodgraining, and marbleizing. When finished, a room done in this style often gives the effect of fine wallpaper. She has done murals using these various techniques, too.

Claudine will accept work within a two- or three-hour range of Springfield, "but I will always accept jobs at the Cape because it is so beautiful there."

Claudine painted for her father to pay for college. She attended the University of Massachusetts and earned a degree in economics with a minor in art. "The economics side of it helps me make a viable business out of my dream (to work as an artist). It also helps keep me grounded," she told us.

Balancing Art & Business

Claudine learned many aspects of decorative painting because all of her uncles are in the remodeling business. Balancing art and business requires constant focus. She has a studio in Indian Orchard where she does smaller pieces. Many of these works, mostly paintings, are on commission or on request. Her work can be viewed by appointment at the studio by calling 543-8398.

The studio is an Artists' Gallery where she shares hanging space with other artists. She gives lessons in faux painting techniques and these days and times can also be obtained by call-



CLAUDINE BOUCHARD COLLINS is a professional decorative painter whose reputation is growing in this region and whose work is in demand. Her technique of wall painting in customers' homes has become extremely popular. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

ing the studio. She will do classes for two or more students on request.

Another type of decorative painting Claudine offers is metal leaf. This is an exclusive finish. Using metal leaf to make designs, sometimes abstract or sometimes an image or design, she'll add to mirror frames, small tables, boxes, or similar effects. She makes small earrings with metal leaf and has sold some of these at shows.

A mirror with metal leaf frame will be included in Channel 57's Fine Arts Auction at the end of January. This will hang in the gallery in Downtown Springfield. Her work will be for sale in local stores in Northampton, but many of her assignments are through the word of mouth. She participated in the YWCA decorator show houses, where several artists donate their talent, each redoing one room.

A Fundraising Project

Because this is a fundraising project, there is

publicity for all concerned. Claudine worked at the Western Mass. Home Show last year. She has displayed at MacDuffie School, at a show in Ware, and has worked for many local businesses and families. Boston is another area she has exercised her talent, and she did some rooms in the home of a Connecticut state senator.

Claudine's husband, John, is in law school at Western New England College. In addition to her work as an artist, Claudine teaches Confraternity of Christian Doctrine at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills and has started a youth group for peer support. They have cooperated on a holiday dance, and her next big project is a mural for the Sacred Heart Parish Center.

Claudine would make an excellent role model for young people, and says she enjoys teaching and helping young people develop into good citizens.

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ASHLEY TAYLOR WILLIAMS

With Albany Berkshire Ballet...

Ashley Taylor Williams Performs In "The Nutcracker"

Ashley Taylor Williams, the nine year-old daughter of Warren and Cindy Williams of Meadowbrook Road, Agawam, recently performed for her fourth time with the Albany Berkshire Ballet in its production of "The Nutcracker."

Ashley, a fourth-grader at Benjamin Phelps School, is a student at the New England Dance & Gymnastic Center in Westfield, where she is a member of the competitive jr. dance company, as well as on the sr. gym team.

Ashley has many awards for her dance abilities, and recently won a medal in the Dance Educators of America competition (held in Springfield) for her solo, "Born to Entertain." She has traveled extensively with her competitive teams, and will be attending National Dance Championships in Myrtle Beach this coming July.

Ashley will also be performing with her groups at the Big E Coliseum in West Springfield for the Massachusetts Twisters professional indoor soccer team later this month.

She studies under Loree & Jeff Cloud and Lesley Webber, all of Westfield.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —

Theater Project To Stage Play On Ethel Rosenberg

The final chapter in the life of Ethel Rosenberg is the focus of *The Winds of Fashioning Time*, a play to be produced by the Theater Project at the Majestic Theater January 13th-23rd. An original and award-winning drama, created by Theater Project founder and Producing Director Danny Eaton, the play was first staged in 1993 and was the first production by the theater group.

Eaton crafted the play by researching the jailhouse letters of Ethel Rosenberg, who, along with her husband Julius, was executed in 1953 for allegedly selling "the secret of the atomic bomb" to the Russians. Of particular interest to Eaton was the relationship between Ethel and her prison guard, the basis of which formed the story.

Starring in the role of Ethel Rosenberg will be Christine St. Amant, whose previous appearances with the Theater Project were in *Side Show* and *Blood Brothers*. Marie Kelleher, who appeared in the 1993 production, reprises her role as prison guard/matron Lucy Clarke.

Other cast members include Chris Waldron, Steve Henderson, Roger Patnode, Matt Gaudet, and John Woytowicz. Martin Shell, who appeared in the Theater Project's production of *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Anne Frank*, will direct. As with all Theater Project productions, all performers are residents of the Pioneer Valley/northern Connecticut area.

Eaton was inspired to write the play after some initial research of the infamous spy trial uncovered some interesting facts about Ethel Rosenberg. "She aspired to be a singer and an actress and was quite talented," Eaton says, "which completely contradicted the image of cold and uncaring notoriety the public held for her. She also had an intriguing friendship with one of her prison matrons that brought to light the differences the two women had, and is at the heart of the play."

Performances for *The Winds of Fashioning Time* will be Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$11 to \$15 depending on the date and time of performance, and are available by visiting or calling the box office at (413) 747-7797 during its operational hours of Saturday (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.), Tuesday/Thursday/Friday (2:00-5:00 p.m.), and Wednesday (4:00-8:00 p.m.).

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you...

Totaling \$22,068...

Agawam Cultural Council Awards 23 Grants

The Agawam Cultural Council has announced the award of 23 grants totaling \$22,068 for cultural programs in Agawam. The grants were awarded from a pool of funds distributed to Agawam by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency that supports public programs and educational activities in the arts, sciences, and humanities.

Grants were awarded to schools, organizations, and individuals for activities which include field trips for schoolchildren, concerts, exhibitions, and programs for the townspeople of Agawam.

The Agawam Cultural Council is part of a grassroots network of 336 local councils that serve every city and town in the state. The program is the largest, most decentralized one of its kind in the United States.

The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which then allocates funds to each local council. The decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level, by a board of municipally appointed volunteers.

Members of the Agawam Cultural Council are Sylvia Deliso, chair, Barbara Cohen, Thelma Coughlin, Darcy Davis, Elisabeth DePergola, Edward Filkoski, Michael Grandfield, Virginia Heyl, Donna Kennedy, Richie Mitnick, Howard Safford, and Florida Tangocci.

Grants given for 1999 are to the Agawam Public Library, Agawam Community Artists, Agawam Cultural Council's Summer Concert Series, Bravo Enterprises, Marjorie Greenough, Richard Hamelin, Bud Halpin, the Three Baritones, Radio Reading Service, and Tim Van Egmond.

Also, the Agawam High School, Agawam Junior High School, Agawam Middle School, and to Clark, Granger, Phelps, and Robinson Park elementary schools.

The grants support a range of activities, such as field trips for schoolchildren, First Friday programs, broadcasts, concerts, and exhibitions.

Classified ads in the Advertiser News cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick Street (in the Crossroads Shoppes), Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Happy 1st Birthday, Cody!!!



Love,
Mom, Dad, Tina & Brandon



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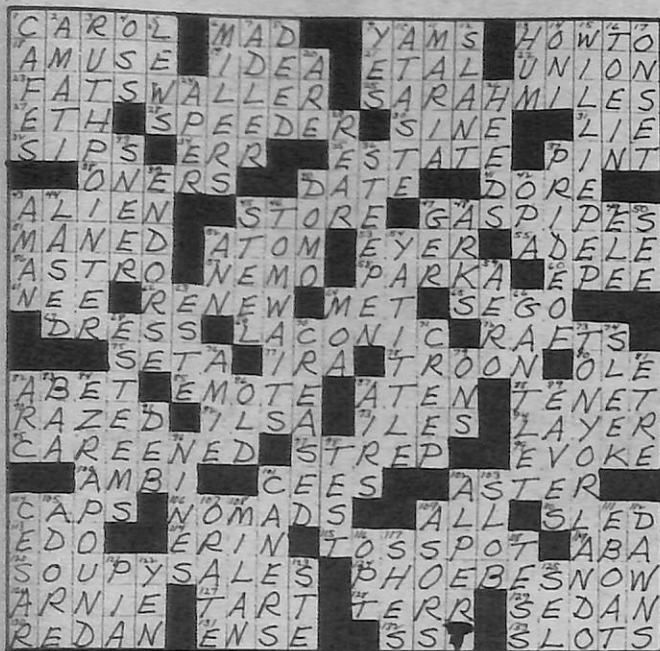
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Happy 16th Birthday!



Love,
Mom, Dad, Kristin, And Jeff

Last Issue's Solution...



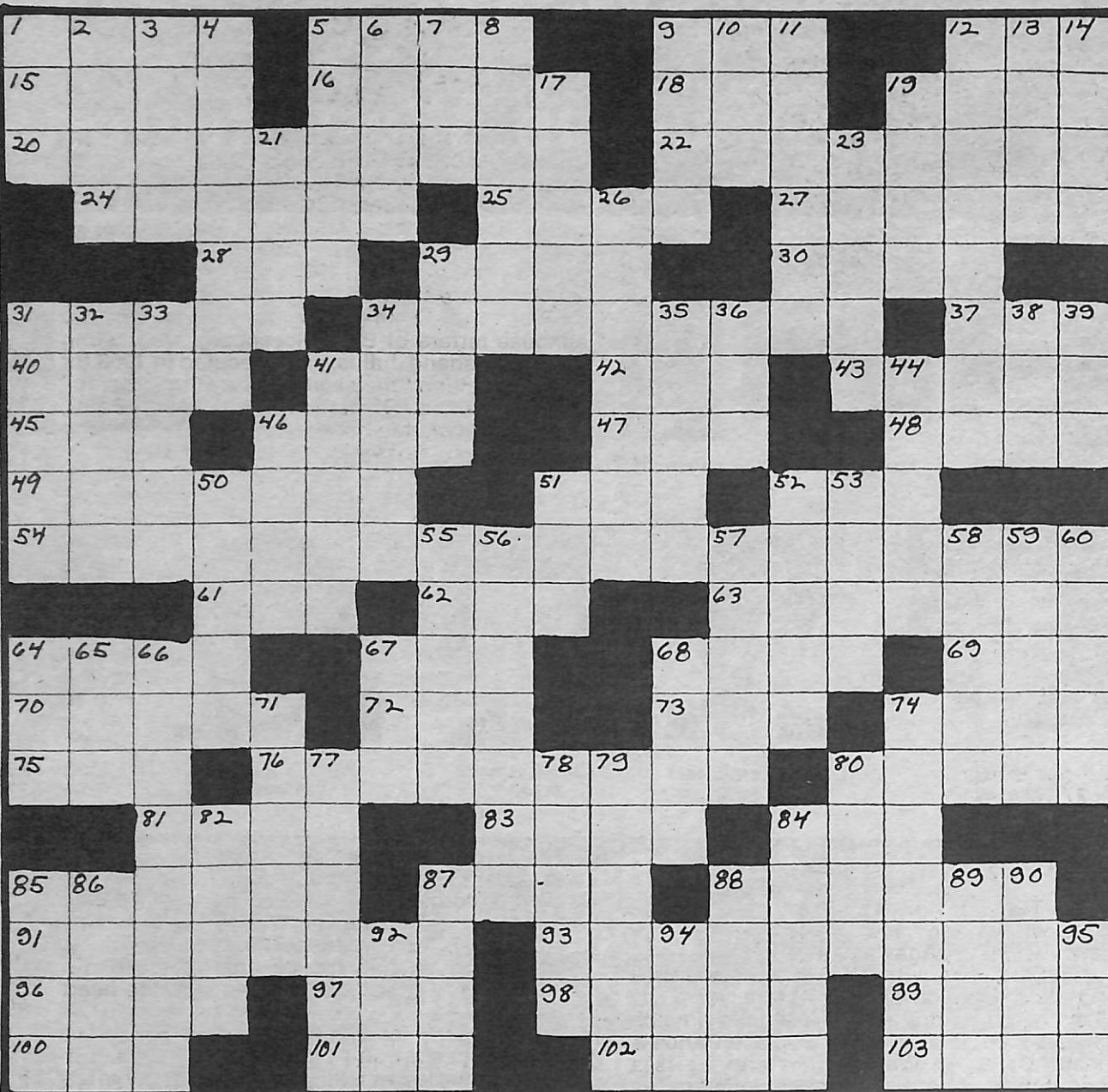
ACROSS

- 1 Over the road truck
- 5 "Red" explorer
- 9 Pacific (abbr.)
- 12 One of Clinton's titles
- 15 The Bard's river
- 16 Shows thrift
- 18 Often inflated item
- 19 Prefix for trooper
- 20 "Big Top" structure
- 22 Midway attraction
- 24 Gazes in a rude manner
- 25 Matched pairs
- 27 Fanons
- 28 Noise
- 29 Argyll island
- 30 Denial words
- 31 Radar reading
- 34 Another 22A
- 37 Singleton
- 40 Dundee toppers
- 41 "You" animal?
- 42 — whiz
- 43 Putting woes
- 45 William Tell's canton
- 46 Remove the excess
- 47 Notable time period
- 48 "Lonesome Dove" boy
- 49 Ozzie's family
- 51 Arafat's org.
- 52 Rainbow
- 54 Blurb for a circus
- 61 Brown of "musical renown"
- 62 Spire topper
- 63 Packing plant
- 64 Soprano Gluck
- 67 Yoko —
- 68 The top
- 69 Compete
- 70 Shows the way
- 72 Overripe
- 73 Weekday
- 74 Nasty
- 75 Singer Boone
- 76 Center ring luminary
- 80 Israel's Meir
- 81 Privy to
- 83 Welsh John

DOWN

- 1 Lemay's org. once
- 2 Peron et al
- 3 Helena's state
- 4 Crosses a border
- 5 German steel center
- 6 Ship deserters
- 7 — got a secret
- 8 Adverse critic
- 9 Cribbage markers
- 10 The past
- 11 Sun halo
- 12 Circus music maker
- 13 Dies —
- 14 "— Timberlane" (Lewis novel)
- 17 Pool member
- 19 City plan
- 21 Dry
- 23 Sarcastic expression
- 26 Hybrid fruit
- 29 Newspaper insertion
- 31 Smarted
- 32 Kitchen tool
- 33 Author Zola
- 34 Geneva people
- 35 One of Ike's generals
- 36 — culpa
- 38 Unused
- 39 Estimate (abbr.)
- 41 Sea eagles
- 44 Peru Indian
- 46 Type of bag
- 50 Dieter's dish
- 51 — Beta Kappa
- 52 What's in —

Meet The Master - by Dick Mastroianni...



- 53 Descartes
- 55 Mortise partner
- 56 Espied
- 57 Happen
- 58 Celebrate
- 59 Group of three
- 60 Al Capp's Lena
- 64 Matterhorn
- 65 Meadow
- 66 Afternoon showings
- 67 Spanish gold
- 68 Solar disc
- 71 Wade through water
- 74 Woman hatmaker
- 77 "Four —" (tie)
- 78 States strongly
- 79 Docking area
- 80 Festive event
- 82 Bites at
- 84 Used a stopwatch
- 85 Draw a — on
- 86 In the manner of
- 87 Indian grouping
- 88 Fairy tale heavy
- 89 And others
- 90 Agents
- 92 Formerly named
- 94 Catch red-handed
- 95 Female sandpiper

Sculptor Presents Program At The Agawam Public Library

Sculptor Robert Anderson of Hatfield was this year's lead artist for the year 2000. Once again, the Agawam Community Artists were pleased to present, to the public free of charge, some of the many talented and gifted artists throughout our area.

On Monday, January 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Agawam police station, 681 Springfield Street, Agawam, sculptor Robert Anderson presented a sculpture demonstration.

Anderson, winner of the President's Award for the New England Woodcarvers Association, also received three first-place awards in the Cromwell, Connecticut Woodcarvers annual show, the largest competition on the east coast. Recently, Anderson was on the program with Robert Bateman and Carl Brenders at the prestigious Art and Animal Kingdom at the Bennington Center for the Arts in Bennington, Vermont.

Although woodcarving and sculpting at the present are Anderson's primary focus, his oil, watercolor, and acrylic paintings have also brought him statewide acclaim, winning first-place in the master division in the 1997 Wildlife Art Show in Killington, Vermont in 1997.

Under the auspices of the Agawam Cultural Council, the Agawam Community Artists strives to present to the public, programs that enlighten and enhance our awareness of the beauty around us through the eyes of these talented and creative artists.

For additional information regarding the Agawam Community Artists, membership, or any of the artists that have been featured in its schedule of monthly programs, please contact Florida Tangocci at 786-3689.

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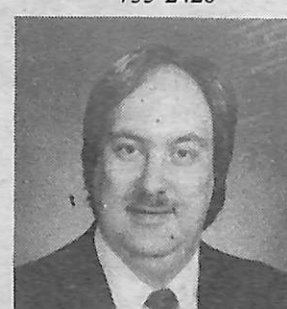
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Education

At James Clark School...

State Rep. Keenan Visits 3rd & 4th Grade Councilors

State Representative Daniel Keenan stopped by James Clark School to talk with the third- and fourth-grade student council members.

The students and Keenan discussed the similarities of their "political" careers: why they chose to run; how they vote in; what they want to accomplish; and how to spend their budget.

The student council and Rep. Keenan agreed they ran because they wanted to make a difference, but needed the votes of their peers to be elected to office. The student council nominees make up campaign posters and also give election speeches in their classrooms.

The rooms then vote for their representatives on the student council. The student council meets with Principal Sandra Howard at least twice a month to discuss what they want to accomplish for the year. Besides working on serious matters such as updated hallway, cafeteria, and bus behavior rules, the student council also sponsors the annual parent/student luncheon and school participation days, such as uniform day or silly clothes day.

Their fundraising efforts include three or four popcorn sales (earning over \$100 at 25 cents a bag), where the council members take shifts selling popcorn and drinks throughout the day. In the spring, the student council runs a sale with the whole school selling cases of candy bars.

Monies earned have been spent on library books and supplies, the new playscape, the new swings, school beautification for Earth Day, a donation for the Agawam Fire Department's Thermal Imaging Helmet, and this year, the council is helping sponsor this year's L.I.F.E. Series.

For the past five years, the student council groups have been a helping hand when needed or give up an occasional recess. This year's group is no exception, and we look forward to their input, seriousness, and zest for the remainder of the school year.

All the hometown news with us, each and every week ... AAN!!!



PICTURED WITH STATE REP. DAN KEENAN at James Clark School (from left to right): Andrea Walsh, Brittany LaFleche, Sean Walsh, Kelsi Johnson, Nicole Desimone, Denise Gates, Ashley Breault, Cori Geiger, Kelly LeGrand, Delanie Sapelli, Lindsay Strole, Carla Rosati, Angelo DePalma, Rachel Goodman, Alex Koulgeorge, Sarah St. Germain, Brandon Chase, Peter Chlastawa, Alex Taupier, and Christopher Walters. (Missing from photo: Nicholas Sarnelli and Brittney Bryant.)

News On Washington D.C. Trip

Welcome to 2000! In just a few short months, we will be off to New York, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia.

If any student travelers need more candy, please contact Tina Benson soon as a shipment has been received, which will have to be dispersed or returned to the company.

A third payment is due now that it is January. With January's payment, each traveler should have approximately \$250 paid towards their trip, including candy money credits. (The final price for the students is \$400 with all meals, admissions, tips, etc. included; chaperones' price is \$400 for

double occupancy and \$325 for quad occupancy, which includes everything except a few meals.)

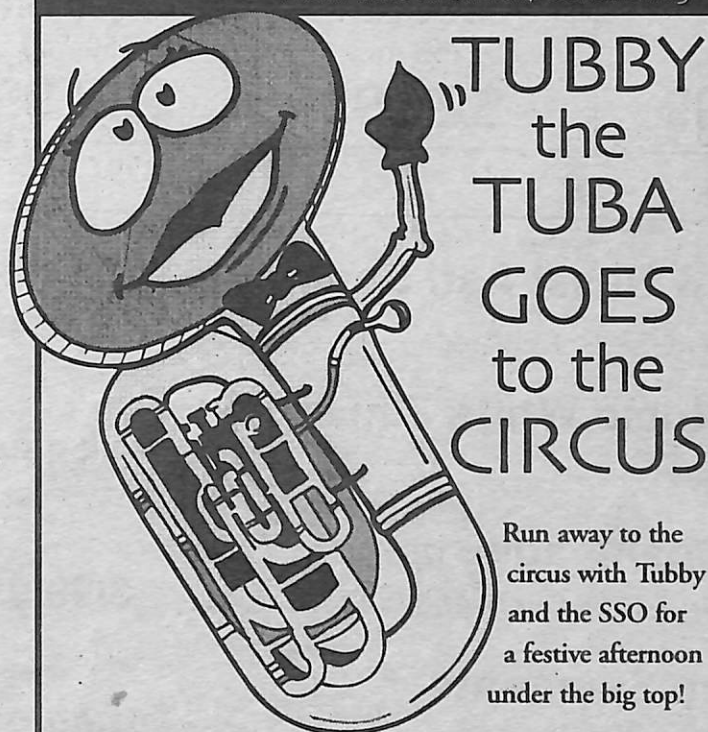
There are a couple of spots available, so if you have been contemplating joining us, now is the time to act.

There will be a chaperone meeting later this month. You will be contacted individually. Students will have their meeting coming up in late February. Watch for the notice through *The Agawam Advertiser News* as well as a notice through school.

Any questions, comments, or concerns, call Rachel Thomas at 786-9896.

SPRINGFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Mark Russell Smith, Conducting



Run away to the circus with Tubby and the SSO for a festive afternoon under the big top!

January 23 at 3 PM

Doors open at 1:30 PM
for children's activities.

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Ag. High School's January 2000 Calendar Of Events

Jan. 7th: Open Discussion sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

Jan. 10th-21st: Penny War sponsored by the Future Teachers Club.

Jan. 11th: Student Breakfast sponsored by the junior class, 6:50-7:20 a.m.; Practical Law classes field trip to Enfield State Prison; Math Team meet, Western Mass. Math League at Longmeadow.

Jan. 13th: Substance Abuse Prevention Program student breakfast, 6:50-7:20 a.m.; Family resource meeting sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

Jan. 13th-14th: Mock Trials in Practical Law classes.

Jan. 14th: Open Discussion sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program; Ice Cream Social: Fall Sports GPA Winners.

Jan. 15th: AHS Jazz Band performance at the Mayor's Inauguration Ball; As Schools Match Wits (High School Quiz Bowl) at Holyoke Catholic High School.

Jan. 17th: Peer Leaders Candy Sale begins -Scholarship Fundraiser; Annual Band Auction at Sacred Heart Church, Feeding Hills, 5:00 p.m.

Jan. 18th: Student Breakfast sponsored by the junior class, 6:50-7:20 a.m.; Superintendent's Student Advisory Council meeting, 2:00 p.m.; Math Club meeting; Intergenerational Poetry Group meeting, 1:50-2:35 p.m., Room 38.

Jan. 20th: Substance Abuse Prevention Program student breakfast, 6:50-7:20 a.m.; Family resource meeting sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program; Renaissance Exam Exemptions distributed for Gold & Gold Plus Card Holders School Improvement Council meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 21st: Open Discussion sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

Jan. 24th: MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS: Period I, 7:25 a.m.-9:05 a.m.; Period II, 9:10 a.m.-10:40 a.m.; Period III, 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Jan. 25th: Student Breakfast sponsored by the junior class, 6:50-7:20 a.m.; MID-TERM EXAMINATIONS: Period IV, 7:25 a.m.-9:05 a.m.; Period V, 9:10 a.m.-10:40 a.m.; Make-Up Exams, 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Jan. 26th: Period VI, 7:25 a.m.-9:05 a.m.; Period VII, 9:10 a.m.-10:40 a.m.; Make-Up Exams, 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Jan. 27th: Substance Abuse Prevention Program student breakfast, 6:50-7:20 a.m.; Family resource meeting sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

Jan. 28th: Open Discussion sponsored by the Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

ADVERTISER NEWS

Happy Sweet
16th Birthday,
Brittany
"Punky"



January 6th

We Love You & God Bless -
Mom, Dad, & Bryan



THE JUNIOR HIGH AND AHS PEER MEDIATORS: back row — Julia Weisgerber, Katelyn Tierney, Chelsea Breton, Andrew Oleksak, Amanda Lemieux, and Mary Gottardi; middle row — Danielle Glantz, Erinn Gormley, Erin Sullivan, Caroline Elkins, Katie Gorman, and Brianne Nicklaw; front row — Erin Millillo, Jessica Tully, and Jaclyn O'Neill.

At Agawam Police Station...

Junior High School And AHS Peer Mediators Receive Training

In December, peer mediators at the Agawam Junior High School and the High School received their training at the Agawam Police Station.

The PTO provided monies to pay for transportation and a pizza party. Much thanks to the PTO for their continued support of this activity. Thanks are also in order to the High School mediators who also helped out with the training.

Mediation is a way of solving problems with the

help of people who don't take sides. The mediators help disputants understand the underlying problem and assist them in writing up an agreement that works for all involved.

Any questions regarding this program should be directed to Ralph Figy at the High School, or Wendy Bradley and Laura Wray at the Junior High School.

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TIGERS STEVEN OLIVARES AND JEREMY BLOOD show off their tiger puppets made at the Pack 77 Craft Table.

Pack 77 Cub Scouts Enjoy "Tiger Tracks"

Tiger Tracks '99 was an orange day for cub scout Pack 77 of St. John's. Held at Stefanik School in Chicopee, Tiger Tracks is an afternoon for the Tigers and their adult partners to share crafts, participate in games, and check out some cool vehicles.

For games, the boys could try musical chairs, rock toss, balloon pop tic-tac-toe, bean bag toss, and beanie slingshot.

Crafts included making a tiger paw complete with claws, a tiger tube, a candy cane reindeer, a felt Christmas tree ornament, and a paper bag tiger puppet. The tiger puppet was the "best" craft since it was sponsored by our Pack 77.

Tiger Cub Coach Kathy Monahan, along with cub scout helpers Sam Monahan, Nick Abraham, and Josh Blood, showed the tigers how to color, cut, and glue to make the paper bag tiger hand puppet.

Outside activity included a state police cruiser, the AMR education van, and a race car from Whip City. The boys could search inside the three vehicles, asking questions from A to Z. (Thanks for the vehicles, your time, and information.)

Adding to the fun of the day was the discovery that Pack 77 had the largest Pack representation of Tigers from the Pioneer Valley District. (Pack 164 was the largest from the Dekanawidah.) Eleven Tigers with partners (47 percent of our Tigers) turned out to participate in this fun-filled afternoon, getting together with fellow Pack 77 Tigers and meeting new Tiger friends. (See you at Tiger Quest in May 2000.)

All the Tigers went home with some great crafts and new knowledge to share with their Packs. Thanks to the council and to the Packs/Troops who ran the crafts and games for a Search/Discover/Share afternoon.



IN TOP PHOTO: Pack 77's tiger puppet craft table. Back row — Nick Abraham, Jeremy Blood, Tiger Coach Kathy Monahan, Sam Monahan, and Josh Blood. IN PHOTO BELOW: A group shot of Pack 77 tigers and adult partners, along with representatives from AMR, the state police, and Whip City Raceway.



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Students Enjoy "A Month Of Giving" At Phelps School

Benjamin Phelps students and their families recently helped to celebrate the holidays in what has become a tradition for that school. In lieu of shopping at an in-school holiday store, the students had an opportunity to share in "A Month of Giving."

During four consecutive weeks, the children brought in items related to a particular theme for each given week. Week one was a penny drive to benefit Toy for Joy. During week two, the children contributed non-perishable food items to be donated to the Open Pantry.

For week three, they brought in reading and coloring books, as well as crayons, which were also donated to the Open Pantry. Week four ended with a special mitten tree, with donations of mittens and hats that were given to a local women's shelter.

By giving in this tradition, the students received a special feeling, knowing that they helped to make someone's holiday a little brighter.

Michelle R. Lalancette Receives MBA At WNEC In Springfield

Michelle R. Lalancette of Feeding Hills received a Master of Business Administration degree from Western New England College. Lalancette is the daughter of Ronald and Patricia Lalancette of Feeding Hills.

Western New England College is a private, independent, coeducational institution founded in 1919. Located on an attractive 215-acre suburban campus in Springfield, the College serves its 5,100 students on its main campus and at 20 sites throughout the Commonwealth. Undergraduate and graduate programs are offered through the College's Schools of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Law.

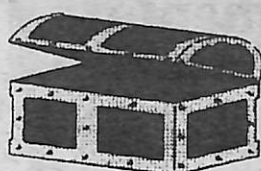
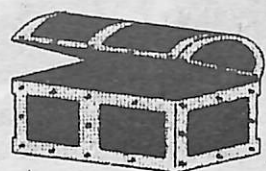
The degree was awarded after completing courses of study in October.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —



PICTURED ABOVE ARE VARIOUS STUDENTS from Benjamin Phelps School who participated in "A Month of Giving" during the 1999 holiday season.

Classified ads in the Advertiser News cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone. Please bring them to our office at 14 Southwick Street (in the Crossroads Shoppes), Feeding Hills, or mail them (with payment) to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.



BENEFIT AUCTION FOR AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL BAND

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2000
5:30 P.M. PREVIEW
6:30 P.M. AUCTION

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DIANE REYNOLDS (a worker at Heritage Woods) helps Leah Marsh and Courtney Chisholm put the finishing touches on their snowman ornaments.

From Lou Spiro's Class...

Middle School Students Visit Heritage Woods

Since November 4, 1999, Louis Spiro's class, room 204 at the Agawam Middle School, has been visiting the senior citizens at Heritage Woods every other Thursday.

On November 4th, the children and their new friends helped each other make a craft called "God's Eyes."

On November 18th, the children got acquainted with their new friends. They made a game out of it by asking questions and getting points for the most interesting story.

On December 9th, they all made a snowman Christmas ornament, which all came out beautiful!

To round out the year before the millennium, Mr. Spiro played his guitar while the children from both his fifth-grade class and Jeanne Forgette's fifth-grade class (room 203) sang Christmas carols for the senior citizens at Heritage Woods and Heritage Hall South. Nicholas Savard and Caitlin Davis sang a duet (*I Caught Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*).

Mrs. Forgette's classroom has been visiting the senior citizens at Heritage Hall South every other Thursday.

The children were asked how they felt going to visit their new friends and here are their responses:

I love working and visiting with the residents at Heritage Woods and I love them.

Leah Marsh

I like working with the residents and it is nice at Heritage Woods.

Christopher Alvanos

I like working with the residents. They like to see us because it reminds them of their memories.

Lindsey Pfau

The children in rooms 203 and 204 were asked as a group how they felt about coming to visit the residents at both Heritage Hall South and Heritage Woods and all the children responded that they love it.

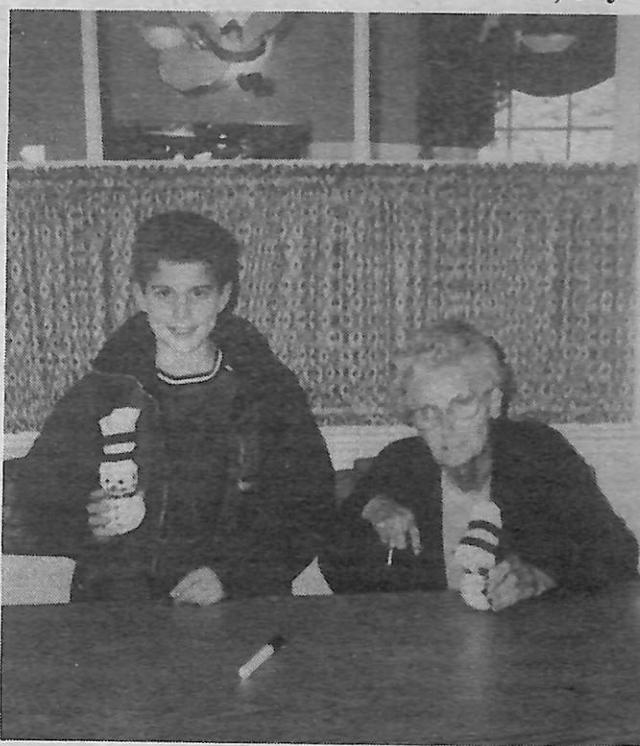
The residents were also asked and they all responded "We love seeing the children and we wish we could see them every day instead of every other Thursday."

According to parent volunteer Lisa Marsh, "I as a parent, along with seven other parents, said we, too, have made new friends at Heritage Woods and Heritage Hall South. We commend Mr. Spiro and Mrs. Forgette for having our children participate in such a worthy project. We also commend Lynn Wilson, Activity Director at Heritage Woods, for taking the time to make this project work."

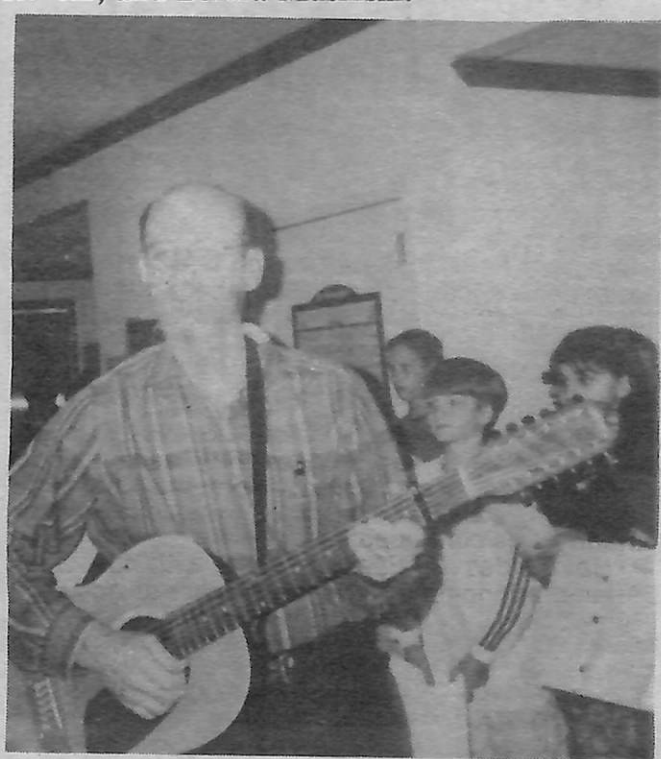
DUE TO OUR BACKLOG OF PHOTOS, we will continue to publish various shots of Christmas season events in Agawam/Feeding Hills in next week's edition...



MR. SPIRO'S FIFTH-GRADE CLASS at Agawam Middle School (room 204) shows off their snowman ornaments with their new friends Elizabeth Isler, Joyce Rovelli, and Bertha Musinski.



IN LEFT PHOTO: Christopher Alvanos with his new friend, Bertha Musinski, at Heritage Woods. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Mr. Spiro plays his guitar while his fifth-grade classroom (room 204) and Mrs. Forgette's fifth-grade class (room 203) sing Christmas songs at Heritage Woods.



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At Westfield State College...

Athletic Award Named For Peter Mazza Of F. Hills

Peter Mazza of Feeding Hills, outgoing vice president of student affairs at Westfield State College, received a highly prestigious honor at the Westfield State College fall varsity sports banquet held recently in Scanlon Banquet Hall.

Westfield State athletics director Ken Magarian announced at the conclusion of the banquet that a special athletics award in Mazza's honor will be given annually to an outstanding Westfield State College student-athlete.

Named the "Peter Mazza Athletics Award," the main criteria for receiving this award include: character, leadership, athletic ability, academics, sportsmanship, personal development, and community service.

"This will be a very important award that we will present at the end of each academic year," said Magarian. "Peter Mazza is a former athlete himself and he has been extremely supportive of the athletics program and its students."

Magarian explained the selection process.

"The team representatives on the Westfield State Student-Athlete Advisory Board (SAAB) will forward a nomination from their respective teams to the athletics department," he said. "Based on the criteria presented, the athletics department staff members will then select a student-athlete who best represents the ideals of Peter Mazza."

Mazza, who worked at Westfield State for the past 29 years, was overwhelmed and humbled by the special announcement.

"I take this opportunity to thank the Westfield State College athletics department and the Student-Athlete Board for bestowing such a high honor upon me. I accept your establishing the Athletics Award in my name, and I am humbled by your magnanimous gesture."

"The department's excellent programs serve the student's need for wholesome athletic competition and also provide a platform enabling personal growth, educational development, leadership experience, and community service. The athletics department staff, students, and programming are distinct assets to the college community," he continued.

He resides in Feeding Hills with his wife, Arlene, a long-time business teacher at Agawam High School. He is a former member of Agawam Town Council.

* * *

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you...

Agawam High's Guidance Bulletin

College Acceptances: Congratulations!
Bradley Harris: Salem State College
Sheri Benton: University of Hartford, Quinnipiac College

Crystal Place: Endicott College
Laura Charest: Boston University
Liz Coelho: Boston University
Brian Chechile: Western New England College
Matthew Sharpe: Hofstra University
Jen Lock: Framingham State College
Caroline Sherpa: University of Vermont, University of New Hampshire

Crystal Place: Northeastern University
Mary-Elizabeth Dupelle: Western New England College

Lynn Hopkins: Westfield State College
Jennifer Sommer: Western New England College

Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

Westfield Post 124 American Legion Scholarship: Open to high school seniors whose parent or guardian is a member of American Legion Post 124 (or a deceased member). Deadline: April 23, 2000.

Mass. State Elks Association Scholarship: Applications are available from John LaFleur at 789-7106.

Elks National Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship: 500 four-year scholarships will be offered to the highest rated boys and girls in the national competition. Applicants will be judged on financial need, leadership, and scholarship. Deadline: January 14, 2000.

Tomorrow's Teachers Scholarship Program: Graduating seniors who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply: rank in the top 25 percent of their class, a legal resident of Massachusetts, a U.S. citizen, agrees to enter a four-year public university in Massachusetts to earn a teaching certificate, and agrees to teach in Massachusetts for four years after graduation. Deadline: February 1, 2000.

National Kidney Foundation of Mass., Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Vermont Scholarship: Thirteen scholarships of \$700 each will be awarded to applicants who are kidney patients or have an immediate relative who is a kidney patient. Recipients are chosen on the basis of need and merit. Deadline: March 13, 2000.

Open Houses: See your counselor for more information.

Savannah College of Art and Design: January 29, 2000.

* * *

For photo coverage in The AAN, call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice. Thank you.

* * *

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu


Monday, January 10th: Cheeseburg in roll, oven potato puffs with catsup, seasoned mixed vegetables, chilled pineapple chunks, milk.

Tuesday, January 11th: Rotini with meatsauce, Italian bread and butter, seasoned broccoli cuts, sliced apples with cinnamon sugar, milk.

Wednesday, January 12th: Chicken and rice soup, deli turkey sandwich in roll, oven french fries with catsup, chocolate brownie or fruit medley, milk.

Thursday, January 13th: Filet of chicken parmesan sandwich, steamed rice, seasoned diced carrots, strawberry shortcake, milk.

Friday, January 14th: Cheese pizza, tossed garden salad with creamy dressing, peaches in syrup or peanut butter cookie, milk.

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OPEN HOUSES FOR PART-TIME STUDENTS

Thursday, January 6, 2000
4 to 7 pm

Saturday, January 8, 2000
9 am to 1 pm

St. Germain Campus Center
Snow date: Saturday, January 15, 2000
Classes start January 18

 **Western
New England
College**
1215 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA

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A.H.S. Cheerleader Pasta Supper

Sunday

January 9, 2000

Continuous Servings From
4 To 8 P.M.

Italian Sporting Club
349 Cooper Street
Agawam, MA

Tickets: \$5.00 Pre-Sold / \$6.00 At The Door
Children Under 10 — \$3

To Benefit Their Trip To The
U.C.A. National Cheerleading Championship

Registration For Agawam Adult Ed.

Registration for the winter semester of the Agawam Adult Education Program will be held on Monday evening, January 10th, and Wednesday evening, January 12th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School Guidance Office.

Registration will also be held during the first week of classes on Tuesday, January 18th, and Wednesday, January 19th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School Guidance Office.

Due to the observance of Martin Luther King Day (Monday, January 17th), the classes will be begin on Tuesday, January 18th, and run for 10th weeks, ending on or about April 1st. (During the mid-winter vacation, no classes will take place on Monday, February 21st, and Wednesday, February 23rd.)

Class time is 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and all Agawam Adult Education classes are held at Agawam High School.

The following is a list of courses and the nights they are being offered during the winter semester:

Monday classes: English 09, English 10, English 11, English 12, EXCEL, Algebra I, Power Point/Access, and General Science.

Wednesday classes: General Math, Computer Concepts, Microsoft WORD I, Oil Painting, and U.S. History.

The tuition charge is \$75 per course and is payable at the time of registration. No refunds will be given after the second class meeting.

Tuition will be refunded if there is an insufficient number of students registered for a course (or courses). The administration reserves the right to cancel a course (or courses) for lack of registration.

Those persons interested in working toward a high school diploma should bring with them a transcript of any course work completed since ninth grade.

If Agawam schools are closed because of inclement weather, evening school is also canceled (local radio stations will also announce any cancellations). Make-up days for inclement weather will be scheduled during the term.

For further information regarding the Agawam Adult Education Program, call 821-0522 or 821-0527.

Professional Dev. Day For All K-6 Teachers In Agawam Schools

On Thursday, January 13th, the Agawam Public Schools will conduct a full day of professional development for all Kindergarten through grade 6 teachers.

Consequently, school will not be in session for Clark, Granger, Phelps, Robinson Park, and Agawam Middle School students.

Students in grades K-6 will return to school on Friday, January 14th.



Polish American Club of Agawam

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Info Gathering At MacDuffie School

The MacDuffie School will be hosting an informational gathering on Monday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Agawam Library.

This gathering will give area residents an opportunity to meet current MacDuffie School parents, students, and staff. "This is another way we can bring The MacDuffie School out to our communities," said Director of Admissions Susan Clayton, adding that the school was trying to reach people who might not be able to attend the regularly scheduled open houses, visit weeks, or tour days.

The MacDuffie School will be hosting an Open House on Sunday, February 13th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and tours are available every Wednesday by reservation.

Each year, many students and their parents consider a private, independent school as an educational alternative to public or parochial schools. A study by the U.S. Department of Education has confirmed what independent families have always known - that independent school students do more homework and more advanced

coursework, watch less television, read better, become more involved in extracurricular activities, and in short, get excellent preparation for college - and life.

The MacDuffie School is a college preparatory school with many additional advantages. It is a coeducational facility, serving students in grades six through 12. Classes are small and conducted by skilled faculty with extra help sessions available in all subjects. The MacDuffie School offers many opportunities for academic advancement as well as an extensive arts program, including music, dance, theatre, and visual arts. Interscholastic athletics in all seasons are available.

For more information on the January 10th informational gathering, the February 13th Open House, or to schedule a tour of the campus, call 734-4971, ext. 144.

The MacDuffie School was founded in 1890 and continues to provide area girls and boys with a quality private education.

Hear Ye!

Hear Ye!

Hear Ye!

Hear Ye!

Read All About It!!!

The Sacred Heart Athletic Association

Proudly Presents Its First

Baseball & Softball Sign-Up

When:

Saturday, January 22nd

Sunday, January 23rd

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Where:

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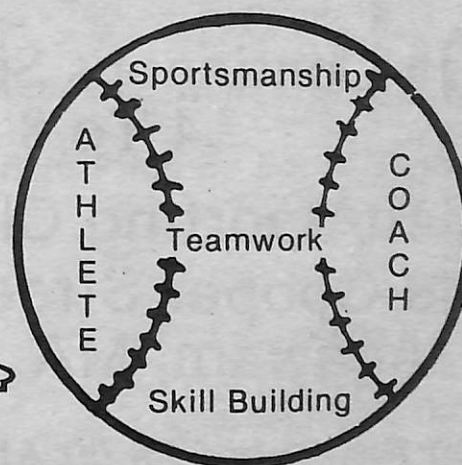
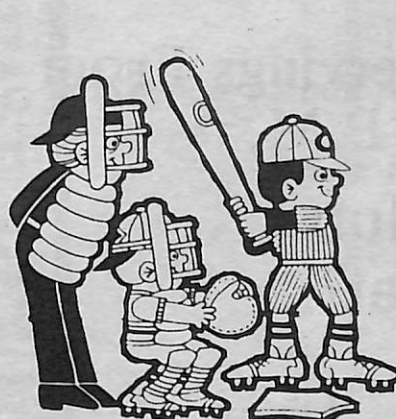
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Sports

Girls' Basketball...

Conte's Forces Reel Off Four Straight Wins

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High girls' basketball team gave the faithful some nice gifts over the holiday vacation, and along with them, a possibility of a hoop-happy new year. After losing their opening two games, they came back and won four straight to stand at 4-2 when school resumed this past Monday morning.

It all started with Taconic at Kibbe Gym Monday, December 20th - a workmanlike 33-28 win. What followed was a complete reversal of the Brownies' fortunes as they hammered Holyoke (63-35), clipped Chicopee Comp (35-33), and beat Northampton, dropping the Devils, 41-39. All were independent games.

In their two losses, they'd given up 43 points to Berkshire schools Wahconah Regional and 64 to Monument Mountain. In the four wins, they gave up only 33.7 points a game, while scoring an average of 43.7.

A Stifling Defense

You don't have to be a statistician to realize that while the offensive output could be better and is obviously the team's weak suit, the numbers showed that they'd found a stifling defense that suited their style.

It comes in the form of a match-up of 1-2-2 that doesn't rely so much on speed but on anticipation, which they are developing, and some outstanding coaching, which they've always had in Lou Conte.

Conte said in previewing the season that they'd have to hold their opponent's point production down to have a chance. They have. And now it seems they do have a decent chance for the tournament, at least. It takes 10 wins to get in. At this writing, only six more are needed.

The highest scorers in the streak have been forward Laura Bucalo (the junior averaged 7.8 points a game) and Jill Gendron (7.6 ppg). No one has had more than 14 points (Bucalo vs. Holyoke). Yet the 10 kids Conte plays have all contributed their share. Liz Stieg is their best three-point shooter so far with four, including a pair in the upset win over Hamp.

* * *

For photo coverage in The AAN, call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice. Thank you.

* * *



AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL'S 1999-2000 varsity wrestling team: bottom row — Coach Chechile, Mat Quirk, Brian Chechile, Dave Moore, and Coach Parker; second row — Brandon Blackak, Kevin Grealis, Aaron Gilbert, Eric Pederson, and Mike Hill; third row — Paul Pilegi, Jon Archambault, Paul Johnson, Jon Silva, and Brian Pederson; fourth row — Rob Fitzgerald, Luke Cardone, Eric Hogan, Ryan Lottermoser, Adam Blackak, and Rich Montagna; fifth row — Andy Korney, Robert LaValley, Bruce LeClair, Steve Kunkler, and Brian Gheddi; top row — Nick Beaudette, Corey Federico, and Don Hare. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

AHS's Matmen Dominate Tomkiel Tournament With 226½ Points

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High wrestling team went into the Christmas vacation week with a meet record of 2-0. Their first big test, a dual meet, came on Monday, December 27th when they hosted the Phil Tomkiel Tournament (formerly the Agawam Holiday Tournament).

Many big name programs showed up, including last year's Western Mass. champion Ludlow, also Quabbin Regional, Springfield Science & Technology, Cathedral, East Longmeadow, Putnam-Commerce, and Westfield.

In the end, Agawam won, going away with 226½ points. Westfield was second with 141 points. Sci-Tech had 128 for third. Ludlow, which most folks felt would give Agawam a serious run for its money, was fourth with 111 points. However, three of the Lions' big guns didn't show up because they were ill.

Agawam had excellent representation in 13 of the 14 weight classes. Only freshman Don Hare, a top wrestler in the 103's, was absent because of illness. Junior Eric Hogan was the top seed in the 112's. Senior Dave Moore was also the number one seed in the 199's. Eric Kunkler, a sophomore, held down the fourth spot in the 125's. Junior Luke Cardone was the top kid in the 130's. Aaron Gilbert, a junior, was number one in the 135's. The third seed in the 140's was occupied by senior Brian Chechile.

Senior Brandon Blackak had a seventh seed in the 145's. Senior Matt Quirk was seeded fifth in the 152's. Kevin Grealis was second in the 160's, as was another senior, Eric Pedersen, in the 171's.

Nick Beaudette, a junior, had the top seed in the 189-weight class. Senior Paul Johnson was third in the 215's and senior Jon Archambault was seeded fourth in the heavies.

Numerous Brownie Winners

The Brownie winners included Hogan in the 112's, Moore in the 119's, Cardone in the 130's, Quirk in the 152's, and Beaudette in the 189's. Chechile took a second in the 140's, as did Grealis in the 160's and Pedersen in the 171's.

The very next day, Ludlow hosted the Northeast Christmas Classic at AIC. The field included Agawam and other powerhouses from around the area - among them, Ledyard, Connecticut and New Fairfield, Connecticut. The field included 16 teams in all. Agawam had a hard time, placing no one in first or second. The Brownies would finish seventh with 100½ points. Ludlow took the top spot with 214½ points, mostly on the strength of the three wrestlers who were sick for the Tomkiel Tourney, but experienced a miraculous recovery to compete in this one.

At presstime, Agawam's next opponent would be Minnechaug Regional at Kibbe Gym, Wednesday, January 5th.

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Boys' Basketball...

Brownies Struggle During Early Season Contests

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' basketball team is still trying to find its way.

Coming back to school this past Monday, they stood at 0-4. And it was obvious neither the offense nor defense was getting down to it. They'd scored just 182 points (45.5 PPG), while giving up 314 (78.5 PA). Numbers like that basically explain the record. Their worst day was Tuesday, December 28th at Greenfield - a 91-39 loss.

Their big point producer during that time was junior forward Lou Conte, who averaged 12.5 a game, with a season high 17 against Chicopee Comp on December 30th.

Most boys' basketball played in Western Mass. sees an up-tempo offense and mostly man-to-man defense. Plus the transition game is lightning quick. New Brownie boys' Coach Brian Alves has decided to play it that way across the board. So far, things have been tough. At this writing, they won't get any easier, with Ludlow, Cathedral, Central, Commerce, and Holyoke looming on the very near horizon.

Boys' Basketball...

AHS Falls To The Lions From Ludlow, 64-42

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High boys' basketball team also has a streak going. But this one is in the wrong direction. They lost their fifth straight on Tuesday evening, 64-42, to Ludlow.

"We scouted them pretty good," Brownie Coach Brian Alves noted. "We saw they weren't a very good shooting team, or at least they didn't seem to be. But that proved to be wrong," he added.

Indeed, the Lions canned their first five shots (all three-pointers) to take a 15-6 lead, and things went downhill from there.

Agawam's leading scorer, Lou Conte (who would can eight in this one), got into early foul trouble and had to sit out much of the first half and part of the second. He was missed, as Ludlow came out running and the Brownies were forced to match up.

"We didn't mind the up-tempo game. I thought A.J. (Martucci - 15 points, three 3's) stepped up for us and became the go-to guy," remarked Alves.

Agawam could never get ahead in this one and trailed 31-21 at the half. "We've had a lead in every game but this one," the coach said.

Agawam (0-5) has a tough one this Friday night (January 7th) at undefeated Cathedral.

"We'll have to play our best to beat them," the coach said, adding, "We are working hard to get ready for our league season, which opens up in a couple of weeks against Westfield. I think we can be near the top in the Valley Wheel. A first- or second-place finish will get us into the playoffs."

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Girls' Basketball At Kibbe Gym...

Brownies Beat Ludlow, 56-34, And Chalk Up Five-Game Winning Streak

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Before the roof fell in on them (figuratively, not literally) up at Kibbe Gym on Tuesday evening, the Ludlow High girls' basketball team (1-4) was making a game of it.

They fought the Brownies (who were working on a five-game win streak) even up through 12 minutes of the first half before losing their way and the game, 56-34.

Agawam, in running its record to 5-2, tried to play the kind of patient game that has been a prime reason for that record (although the game itself often resembled a track meet with the two teams pressing each other and running up and down the floor).

The Lions, despite the fact that they outbounded the Brownies 37-24 (pulling down 20 off the offensive glass alone as opposed to Agawam's six), couldn't put the ball in the Grand Canyon. Witness a stretch of 8:46 from the end of the first half through the beginning of the second when an 18-18 tie blew wide open into a 28-2 Brownie run leading to the rout.

Ludlow's Shooting Drought...

During that stretch, Agawam's defense forced the Lions into a 1-10 shooting drought while the offense, led by point guard Jill Gendron (15 points), guard Liz Stieg (nine points), and center Laura Bucalo (nine points), put it up from downtown and down below to the tune of 11-16 from the floor. Ludlow, totally frustrated by the Brownie combination of zone and man-to-man defense, would end up shooting 6-29 in the second half and 16-47 for the game.

The AHS faithful, much like the Agawam defense, could see the simmering seeds of self-destruction sprouting early in this one. Ludlow had no one who could effectively bring the rock up the floor, much less put it in the hole. It was like slathering yourself with steak sauce and walking into meal time at a cannibal convention - thus the big run and the 22-point victory.

So solid was the Agawam game plan that, despite the fact that things occasionally got sloppy, they committed only nine turnovers and gave up only two points off their miscues. Ludlow, on the other hand, bobbled the ball 18 times, giving up six points, as AHS Coach Lou Conte continued

to outthink and outmaneuver the opposition.

Gendron, the offensive leader in this one, explained the team's recent success: "We're playing together. After those two losses to start the season, we got an attitude change. We became prepared to do whatever it took to win. That's one of the reasons we are where we are now."

AGAWAM STATS: Gendron - 15 points, 7-9 FGS, 1-3, 1 REB; Clark - 4 points, 1-6 FGS, 2-2 FTS, 2 REBS; Lyman - 6 points, 3-9 FGS, 2 REBS, 1 off; Lottermoser - 2 points, 1-2 FGS, 2 REBS; Shannon - 1 point, 0-4 FGS, 1-2 FTS, 2 REBS; Benton - 4 points, 2-5 FGS, 4 REBS; Stieg - 9 points, 4-7 FGS, 1-3, 1 REB; Shea - 0-2 FGS, 2 REBS; Taylor - 4 points, 2-4 FGS, 3 REBS, 1 off; Bucalo - 9 points, 4-5 FGS, 1-2 FTS, 3 REBS, 2 Off.

FIELD GOALS - 25-52 (48%), 2-2 3 points; **FREE THROWS** - 4-6 (66%); **REBOUNDS** - 24, 6 off; **TURNOVERS** - 9, points allowed off TO's - 2.

LUDLOW STATS: **FIELD GOALS** - 16-47 (34%); **FREE THROWS** - 2-2; **REBOUNDS** - 37, 20 off; **TURNOVERS** - 18, points allowed off TO's - 6.

JV AND FRESHMAN NOTES: The Brownie JV's beat the Lions, 33-32, in a tight game which came down to the final 12 seconds and Ludlow with the ball. However, their shot at the buzzer was no good and the Brownie JV's went to 5-1.

Freshman guard Nicki Gutowski had eight points, and sophomore guard Katelyn Tierney chipped in with six (including a lone foul shot to put AHS up, 33-30). Freshman center Kristen Strole had the final two hoops down the stretch for the Brownies on offensive put-backs.

Last week against 'Hamp, the locals blew out the Blue Devils by 22, with Gutowski (10 points) and sophomore forward Ellen Corbin (10 points) doing most of the damage in a one-sided second half.

The freshmen also won, beating Ludlow at their place, 42-38. Center Katie Maynard had 17 points. She is the scoring leader for the 3-0 frosh (with 11 against Chicopee Comp and 18 in their opener with Holyoke). Point guard Andrea Conte contributed 10 points in the Ludlow win.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you...

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Jay Hanscom On HCC Soccer Team For National Finals

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Holyoke Community College boys' soccer team had a bit of an Agawam flavor to it when late last season they went all the way to the finals of the National Junior College Tournament before losing to Herkimer County Community College from Herkimer, New York, 3-2.

Former Brownie soccer star Jay Hanscom (AHS's class of 1998) was a part of the reason they did so well during the season and beyond. "We finished up at 14-1 and were ranked number one in Division III in the country," the former Brownie and outside midfielder said.

While Jay (in a defensive capacity) didn't score, he did make sure the opposition didn't do much of it, either.

HCC's only regular-season loss was to upper division Essex Community College from Essex, New Jersey. "It was a 2-1 game and we were in it up until the end," Jay noted. They tied another higher division denizen, Champlain Community College from Burlington Vermont, 1-1. "We played four Division I schools during the year and went 2-1-1 against them," Jay smiled.

Winning The State And New England Crowns...

The Crusaders won the community college state crown with a 2-0 decision over Bunker Hill Community College from Boston. They beat STCC, 3-2, thus taking the New England championship. After that, it was on to the Elite Eight held on Long Island, where they beat Queensborough Community College of Bayside, New York, 3-2, in a shootout.

"I was hoping I'd get a shot in that, but being eighth on the shooting list meant there was little chance," Jay said.

The final four met in Nassau, Long Island. "We played those games in the same stadium where the Goodwill Games were held last year," Jay noted.

In the semi-finals, they downed Prince George's Community College from Largo, Maryland, 3-2, on a goal with 1:40 left in the game. Then came the finals and the loss to Herkimer.

"It was a great year for us, especially traveling to the post-season tournament," Jay said. He will be graduating from HCC this spring. He has his eye on Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater for next year. He wants to continue his soccer career once he gets there.



JAY HANSCOM (left) and one of his soccer teammates at HCC.

Field Hockey Stars



FEEDING HILLS RESIDENTS Alison Pratt, Erica Pratt, and Christine Mazeika were members of Westfield State College's field hockey team, which posted a 10-8 overall record in 1999 and was 4-1 in the Mass. State Conference (sharing the league title with Salem State). Erica was the team's "Most Valuable Player" and made Mass. State All Conference for the third year in a row; what's more, she was named Mass. State Conference Co-Player of the Year.

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Swimming Preview...

Chris Johnson Coaching Both Teams At AHS

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

There is a new coach taking over the girls' swim team at Agawam High this year — Chris Johnson, who oversaw the Brownie boys' team last season. If the name sounds familiar, it's because he was Mayor of Agawam for 11 years. But for now it's the pool and not the political ring that interests him.

He looked at the fortunes of boys' and girls' swimming this season. Both teams have one meet under their belts at presstime; each lost their opener to A Division power Minnechaug Regional.

Two boys should be keys to that team, which is made up of seven members. They are captains Nate Adamski (a junior) and Brian Borkosky (a senior), both veterans. Adamski should show well in diving and the butterfly. Borkosky should help in several events.

Johnson, who has seen the boys understaffed for several years, is pleased that he has as many swimmers as he does out for the team this season. "There were times when we only had a couple of boys. That sure is a no-win situation because of numbers alone. This year, we'll at least be competitive," he noted.

The girls will go with 19 swimmers, which pleases the coach. "That's up a couple from last year. Everyone counts in this program," he smiled.

Juniors Shannon Costa (distance), Rachel Morris (sprints), and sophomore Christina O'Brien (individual medley) look to be primed for success, according to the coach.

Johnson will also have three girls on the board — senior veterans Lauren Kunkler and Steph Harnois, and sophomore newcomer Sara Tremblay. According to him, all three of these swimmers are very talented.

Agawam High Girls' Ski Team Prepares For Race Season

The Agawam High School girls' ski team finally hit the slopes last week. In spite of the snowless winter, Coach Jim Graveline was able to schedule several practices on man-made snow at the nearby Blandford ski area, where he observed "many nice surprises."

He continued, "The top skiers of last year have come back stronger and are skiing well, while the younger skiers are making strong advancements in technique."

Returning captains **Laura Charest**, **Kerry St. Laurent**, and **Caroline Scherpa** are excited about the upcoming season. In addition to the three seniors, juniors **Ashley Guilel**, **Amy Jensen**, **Janet Jack**, and **Jen Pietroniro** again bring their racing experience and slalom skills to the team.

Also returning are sophomores **Danya Decoteau**, **Katie Feato**, **Alyson Garvey**, and **Courtney Nowill**. All of the girls were able to compete in at least one varsity event last season, skiing on both the slalom and giant slalom courses. Freshmen **Nicole Clauson** and **Raya Mutti** have joined the team this year and are eager to compete in the giant slalom events.

Coach Graveline states that his team's greatest strength is their combined experience from last year's season: "Our big plus is that the team is back fully intact, and our two newcomers seem very dedicated to becoming better skiers and good racers."

For the last four weeks, the team has been building strength and stamina with workouts in the gym and at the pool. Chris Benjamin offered his expertise in the weight room by setting up a ski-specific workout for the girls, while Dave Smith donated his time and ideas for their aquatic training. This "dry land" training was designed to build endurance and strength, both essential qualities for slalom and giant slalom events.

Coach Graveline observed, "After seeing the girls carry giant slalom turns in practice, I am convinced that the hours in the pool and in the weight room have made a big difference."

On Thursday, January 6th (presstime), the girls were scheduled to put their training to the test when they competed against other top-notch "A" division ski teams in their first race of the season at Berkshire East.



IN THE "SWIM" OF THINGS FOR AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL: back row — Sarah Bates, Nate Adamski, Katie Gallagher, Kyleigh Egan, April Rondeau, Coach Johnson, Christina O'Brien, Shannon Costa, Brittany Theriaque, Brian Borkosky, and Matt Francis; middle row — Dan Adamski, Paul Lagasse, Sara Tremblay, Emily Morton, Kaitlin Morris, Daveen Macsata, and Kristin Berry; front row — Valerie Siedlik, Rachel Morris, Stephanie Harnois, Lauren Kunkler, Lisa Niedziela, and Adrienne Major. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

The Key Events For This Team...

The key events should be diving, the 500 free, and the 100 backstroke for this team.

"I think the ability of this team to score points in the second and third spots will go a long way to how we finish in the end. In other words, instead of a third, they have to take a second, or a third instead of a fourth, and so on," Johnson explained, adding, "Last year, for want of a point higher up in the races, we lost some very close meets."

Johnson feels the team has improved vastly when it comes to their middle core of swimmers, both boys and girls. "These are the kids who won't necessarily come in first all the time, but can step up for those second- and third-place finishes," he said.

They are in the B Division, but have already met

Minnechaug and swam against another A program, Amherst Regional.

"It's helpful to go against some A competition. But they have the numbers. We are more comfortable with the B group. And we must think we can beat everyone we swim against in that division if we are to have a good season," the coach smiled.

Assistant Coach Keith Paro (AHS's class of 1997), a former swimming star who oversees the divers at AHS, is happy to see he has four kids to work with. "A diving team will definitely get us some points because many schools don't have divers in their swimming programs; yet, if they have a board at their pool, we dive. So it's gravy for us," Paro said.

The captains for the girls this year are Lauren Kunkler and junior Lisa Niedziela.



IN TOP PHOTO: AHS ski team members Alyson Garvey, Raya Mutti, Nicole Clauson, Kerry St. Laurent, and Amy Jensen stop their weight training to pose for a group shot. **IN PHOTO BELOW:** Skiers Raya Mutti and Kerry St. Laurent show some "muscle."



Daggett Gymnastics Hosts Women's Invitational

This past Sunday, Tim Daggett Gold Medal Gymnastics was host to their annual Women's Invitational Meet. Six gyms from Massachusetts and Connecticut gathered at the Agawam location, bringing together 98 athletes at all competitive levels.

The competition was classified as a Local Qualifying Meet. Athletes achieving a minimum score earned the right to be able to participate in Sectional Meets and, hopefully, move onto State Meets.

Participating gyms included Gym & More of Woburn, MA; Pioneer Gymnastics of East Longmeadow; Northeast Gymnastics Center of Tewksbury, MA; Whip City of Southwick; and Northwest Gymnastics of Torrington, CT.

Competition was intense between Daggett's and rivals Pioneer Gymnastics and Gym & More. No official team awards were presented. In the morning, the compulsory levels 5-6 squared off. In the afternoon, the optional, or higher skilled girls, competed.

Local Daggett's athletes qualifying for Sectionals included, for the Level 5, 11-12 Age Group, Amber Higley, who scored 35.5 in All-Around totals, due to her success in Bars, Beam, and Floor events.

These were followed by Rachel Foltz, with a 32.85, Rachel Weiss, 32.0, and Alyssa Kanagaki, 31.6, as second, third, and fourth place. In the 9-10 Age Group, Natalie Siameri ranked first with her 32.8. Other qualifiers were Brittany Laflamme of Daggett's, second with a 32.2, and Emily Budd of Pioneer Gymnastics, third with a 32.0.

In Level 6 competition, Daggett's did well in the 10-11 Age Group. Jamie Bassilone won with a 32.7, followed by Mia Siameri with a 32.15. Samantha Santaniello, of Pioneer, qualified with her fourth-place 31.55. In the 12-13 Age Group, Christine Lee, another Daggett standout, led the pack with a high 33.6 total, with 9-plus scores on Vault, Beam, and Floor competitions. Her twin sister, Danielle, scratched due to a persistent cold.

Level 7 saw a high percentage of qualifiers. In the 10-11 Age Group, Christine Dorney of Gym & More won with a 34.3, followed by two girls from Pioneer, Kara Croteau, and Sara Penna. Daggett's Sarah Kantany took first in the 12-13 Age Group with a solid 34.15. This heated competition had five qualifiers from Northeast and Gym & More as well. In the 14-plus Group, two athletes qualified. Michelle Moffett of Gym & More led, closely followed by Joy Higley of Daggett's with another superb 34.3.

The Level 8 Meet drew few competitors, but saw a few high scores. In the 15-plus Age Group, Elizabeth Clark led with a solid 32.2. In the 13-14 Group,

Northwest's Meghan Harnett scored a 32.3. The 11-12 Group's Danielle See of Gym & More won with a 34.55 and Samantha George of Gym & More won with a 34.8.

Of the 17 athletes in Level 9 and 10 competition, 16 qualified to move on to Sectionals. In Level 9 Juniors, Kristen Dahlberg of Gym & More saw the meet high score of 36.4, followed closely by Jennifer Stack of Daggett's with a 35.0. Both competitors had 9.4's on Bars and Floor, respectively.

Gym & More also had two competitors led Junior B and Senior B, with Jaime Scott-Smith of Daggett's holding second with a 34.05. But, to even things up, Daggett's Andrea Babbin (34.1), Kari Sullivan (33.9), and Brionne Lancour (33.15) swept the Level 9 Senior A.

Meanwhile, spectators of the Level 10 competition saw some awesome skills. Lauren Powell of Daggett's led Junior D with a 35.55, followed by other Daggett's women Leah Boccacio with a 34.6 in Senior A and Michelle Germano with a 35.2 in Senior C.

Aquatic Club Invites Youngsters To Swim Clinic

The Western Mass. Aquatic Club would like to invite swimmers ages seven through 18 to a swim clinic provided by Olympic athlete Michael Norment.

The clinic will be held at Chestnut Accelerated Middle School in Springfield on January 23rd from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.. The clinic will cover all four strokes, mental preparation, nutrition, life choices, and Mr. Norment's secrets to success.

This clinic will be in the water, so bring a suit and goggles. The cost for the clinic will be \$40. However, if you register before January 16th, you will receive a \$10 discount.

For information, please contact head coach David Dembowitz at (413) 781-9316 or mail your payment to WSAC, 85 Sumner Ave., Apt. 8, Springfield, MA 01108.

Swim Lesson Registration will begin on January 24th for the winter/spring swim lessons. Have your child ready for summer by enrolling them in swim lessons. Lessons will be given by a certified Water Safety Instructor with competitive swim experience.

Classes will be small, two to four athletes. Have fun, learn to swim, and be ready for summer. Registration will be held at Chestnut Accelerated Middle School from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Ages three and up are welcome to attend.

Please call David Dembowitz in advance for placement, at 781-9316. Anyone who brings this article in with them will receive one free swim lesson.

The masters swim team will begin practice on Monday, January 31st at Chestnut Accelerated Middle School. Practice will be held Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Abilities range from lap swimmers to ex-college athletes. For further information, please contact Amber Waters at (413) 736-6864.

If you are interested in signing up your child for USS swimming. WMAC has introduced a pre-team to get kids ready to participate in competitive swimming. This is an opportunity to learn while you swim along with the rest of the organization.

This allows a smooth transition from non-competitive or semi-competitive swimming into United States swimming. Contact David Dembowitz at the number above or check out the web page at www.westsidet-sunamis.com.

ADVERTISER NEWS

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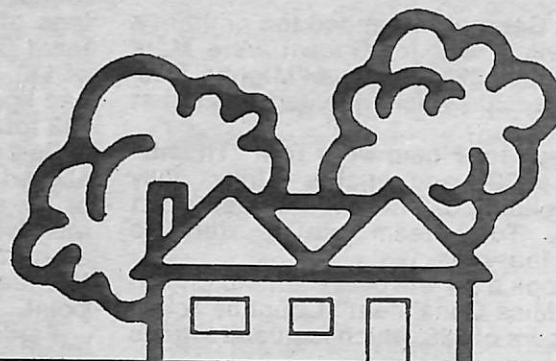
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Round Two Comes To An End For The Tri-Parish Bowling League

As of Monday evening, December 20th, there was a real race for the second-round championship of the Tri-Parish Bowling League.

St. Mary took four points to gain a tie with St. Louis. Fordham won two points to get within one point of the two leaders. Here's how the matches went:

St. Louis was suprised by last-place Boston College. After winning the first string by virtue of a 143 string by anchorman Glen "Not Sam" Adams, the team (as a whole) went to sleep. Boston College came on to win the next two strings and even took the total by 10 pins.

Roger "Rabbit" Josephson only got half a charge, only bowling a 288. Betsy "Loaded" Cannon has begun a comeback and finished the night with 305, which was second to "Not Samuel's" 327 total. Jim "Big Mac" McCormack slipped a little also for the losers by rolling a 299.

St. Mary ran over Holy Cross, taking all four points in their match. No one bowled well for the losers; even anchor Ron "The Don" Menard struggled to a 287.

Helping the winners were Mary "Not Marlo" Thomas's 317 and anchor Rich "Golden" Snyder's 319. "Golden" is still nursing a bad knee, but is slowly improving.

Fordham and Georgetown ended the night in a two-all tie. Bowling well for G'town were Mark "Up" Edwards with a 323 total, and "Mighty" Debbie Poirier with a 330 (which included a 129 first string).

Coming through for F'ham were Tom "Thumb" Massotti with a 301 and anchor "Jolly" Olly Muldrew, who rolled a 333 (which included a 121 second string). Total team pinfall went to Georgetown by four pins.

Notre Dame took a 3-1 win over Catholic University. Maybeth "Miss Consistent" Coughlin rolled another great score of 338, which included strings

of 115, 110, and 113 (that's consistent!). Flo "Rocky" Rochford ran a 137 second string to total out a 324 for the winners.

CU was without their anchor bowler, Kathy "Big Cat" Burlingham, and her average was only good enough to win the first string.

STANDINGS AS OF DECEMBER 20TH

St. Louis	17-11
St. Mary	17-11
Fordham	16-12
Georgetown	15-13
Catholic University	13-15
Notre Dame	11½-16½
Holy Cross	11½-16½
Boston College	11-17

Monday, December 27th marked the last night of bowling in the Tri-Parish League's second round. The matches were set up in a position order, which meant team number one versus team number two, etc.

At this point, St. Louis was still number one by virtue of pinfall because St. Mary had tied them with a 17-11 won/loss record. The pinfall difference was nine pins.

St. Mary put together a team effort and won the round. Mary "Not Marlo" Thomas contributed strings of 110, 107, and 107 for a 324 to lead the team. Don "Reb" Stitt rolled 316 with a high single of 116. Rich "Golden" Snyder is still rolling with a bad knee, but managed two strings of 109 and a 313 total.

Barbra "Quiet One" Lambert, bowling first, started the team off right with two opening strings of 94 and 97 to really help. St. Louis couldn't match this firepower. Glen "Not Sam" Adams had an off-night, bowling only 318 (with a 129 single). His team was only able to come away with one point.

Fordham tied with Georgetown at two-all and

managed to creep ahead of St. Louis by virtue of more pinfall to finish second in the round. In a low-scoring match, Fordham was only able to win the third string, but by enough to take pinfall by four pins and get two points.

In the anchor matchup, "Mighty" Debbie Poirier edged out "Jolly" Olly Muldrew while only bowling a 305 total. "Jolly" has been all worn-out since bowling his 400 series and can't even bowl 300.

Catholic University (bowling without their anchor, "Big Cat" Burlingham), still managed a 3-1 win over Notre Dame, who had two anchor bowlers. Jim "Jimbo" Lambert carried the winners with a 314 total, which included a 114 single.

For the losers, sub "Luscious" Lou Muldrew had a 316 and Flo "Rocky" Rochford added a 308.

In the battle for last place, Holy Cross made sure Boston College stayed in last place by taking all the points in their match. "Big Bag" John Mlinek ran off a 142 single and a 344 total to help Ron "The Don" Menard's 356 and finish more than 100 pins ahead. Vi "Speedy" Massoia had two good strings, but slipped in the third to only muster a 294.

Betsy "Loaded" Cannon did the opposite by rolling one good string (a 127) and totaled a poor 301. Roger "Rabbit" Josephson was still trying to find out how to change batteries and only rolled a 291.

FINAL STANDINGS FOR THE SECOND ROUND

St. Mary	20-12
Fordham	18-14
St. Louis	18-14
Georgetown	17-15
Catholic University (first-round winner)	16-16
Holy Cross	15½-16½
Notre Dame	12½-19½
Boston College	11-21

REMEMBER, WE STILL HAVE TWO MORE ROUNDS TO GO!

DUE TO OUR BACKLOG OF PHOTOS, we will continue to publish various shots of Christmas season events in Agawam/Feeding Hills in next week's edition...



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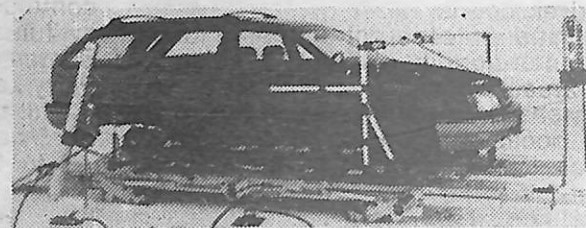


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Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

Y2K Bugged

Who says the Y2K bug was a non-event? At the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, I started sneezing and coughing. By morning, I had a full-blown case of the Y2Flu.

This year's traditional New Year's Day fishing trip, therefore, was postponed.

The recent warm spell has rendered most of the ice unsafe in the vally waters. What little safe ice there was has now vanished. There is reportedly some safe (marginal) ice in the northern areas and in the Berkshires. However, there may not be enough to safely support a bunch of ice fishermen in a group. In fact, if the warm spell continues until presstime, there won't be any ice at all.

The good news is that there is some open water that is fishable as of this writing. I am referring to the Connecticut River and some of its tributaries.

Reports of nice catches of large yellow perch and crappies are coming in from cold weather anglers on the River. Try working the mouth of feeder streams and areas such as the mouth of the Chicopee River and the Agawam River.

Early morning seems best according to recent reports. Once a school is located, stay put and work the area thoroughly.

Small jigs tipped with pin head shiners are accounting for a large number of large perch. An occasional smallmouth is always a welcome bonus.

The trick here is to fish light gear. Four-pound test is the order of the day, with some anglers dropping down to two-pound test. Be alert for subtle hits, as the fish's metabolism is rather sluggish in the cold water!

STRIPER ACTION IN THE THAMES

Connecticut anglers are having mixed success on stripers in the Thames River. Reports indicate that the action is either "great" or just so-so, depending on the day.

Stripers are being caught from the town dock area in Norwich, the hot water outflow from the power plant, and at various locations down to the mouth of the river.

Look for humps or other structure in deep water. Check out the edges of the creek channel and work the areas slowly. Lead head jigs with four-inch sassy shad or other similar offerings are producing an occasional keeper, with enough schoolie action to keep the chill out of your bones.

IT'S FUN TO DREAM

In this week's mail was a press kit from the good folks at Hydrasports Boats. This year, the new Vector Series of center consoles is being offered to the big water angling crowd. The full color glossy pics almost filled your nostrils with the smell of brand spanking new fiberglass and salt spray. Sort of like a psychological scratch-n-sniff for fishermen.

Hey, it's winter! Time to start thinking about the open water season that's heading our way in just a few more months. The Springfield Boat and Fun Vehicle Show will be coming to the Big E at the end of the month and should kick off the "I can't wait 'til spring" yearnings of anglers everywhere.

Have a safe and enjoyable time out there and be very cautious if venturing out on the ice.

Agawam Parks & Rec. Has "Group Nights" For Falcons Hockey

The Springfield Falcons, a professional hockey team, is pleased to announce **Group Nights** sponsored by the Agawam Parks & Recreation Department, to be held once a month through April of 2000.

On all dates, your Recreation Department will offer **ONE GREAT DISCOUNTED PRICE TICKET OF \$7** for either adults or kids, with 50 cents of each ticket sold going back to your Recreation Department for other recreation activities!

The Recreation Department has tickets for all games available now, and they may be purchased at any time up to 24 hours prior to the game. Please call the Recreation Department at 821-0513 for more information.

Winter/Spring Calendar From The Agawam Parks & Recreation Dept.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Agawam Parks and Recreation Office is located in the rear of Agawam High School. Christopher Sparks, Director of Parks and Recreation. Phone: (413) 821-0514.

Jennifer Kerr, Administrative Assistant. Phone: (413) 821-0513.

Address: 760 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Fax: (413) 789-2610.

e-mail: recreation@agawam.ma.us

REFUNDS

If a class is cancelled by the Recreation Department, a full refund or credit will be given. A \$15 fee will be charged for all refunds due to participant cancellation. There are **NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED CLASSES**.

BOUNCED CHECK FEES

The Town of Agawam will impose a \$25 fee on checks returned due to insufficient funds.

REGISTRATION

Registration must be done in person. No phone registrations will be accepted. Enrollment for all programs is limited on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration with payment for all courses is required; make checks payable to "Town of Agawam." A parent's or legal guardian's signature is required for all youth programs.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the case of severe weather conditions, the Recreation Department will list all cancellations on the Recreation Department's answering machine. Please call the Recreation Office at 821-0514.

INSURANCE

The Town of Agawam does not carry insurance to cover hospitalization or medical costs for anyone injured in or watching any of our Parks and Recreation programs.

Program participants must sign a grant of permission and release waiver to participate in Recreation Department-sponsored activities.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

PERRY LANE NURSERY SCHOOL

The Town of Agawam runs a Nursery School for children ages three to five at Perry Lane.

Open House: 108 Perry Lane — Tuesday, January 18th, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Registration/enrollment for the 2000-2001 school year will begin at the Open House and will continue at the Recreation Office until enrollment is full. Children must be three years-old by September 30, 2000 to be eligible for enrollment at Perry Lane.

Call the Recreation Department for more information.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

The 1999-2000 Youth Basketball season is underway. Come watch the games and cheer for your classmates and neighbors.

Games are played on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from January 8th through the end of March.

Game Schedule:

Girls' Grade 3 & 4, Jr. High School, Saturday 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Boys' Grade 3 & 4, Jr. High School, Saturday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Girls' Grade 5 & 6, Middle School, Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Boys' Grade 5 & 6, Middle School, Saturday 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Girls' Grade 7 & 8, High School, Sunday 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Boys' Grade 7 & 8, High School, Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL DROP-IN BASKETBALL

The Parks and Recreation Department is offering Drop-In Basketball for boys and girls in grades nine through 12. Agawam Student ID is required to participate.

No one will be allowed to play without an Agawam High School Identification.

Drop-In Basketball: Mondays, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Agawam Junior High School Gymnasium.

Cost: Free to Agawam High School students.

SWIMMING LESSONS

Youth Swimming Lessons will be offered this spring at the Agawam Junior High School. These lessons will last for seven weeks beginning the week of February 28th and ending the week of April 10th.

A weekday class and a Saturday class will be offered. Specific days and times will not be available until February 1, 2000.

Cost: \$15 per person.

Registration: Begins Monday, February 14th, in the Recreation Office.

Please watch the Agawam Community Channel for details or call the Recreation Office after February 1, 2000.

PUBLIC SWIM

The Agawam Junior High School Pool will be open for public swim on Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Flotation devices are not permitted. Disposable diapers are not permitted in the pool at any time. A cloth diaper with rubber pants or "swimmies" diapers are recommended.

Public Swim: Fridays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Agawam Junior High School.

Cost: \$2 for age six and older; \$1 for age five and younger.

YOUTH LACROSSE

The Youth Lacrosse Program is entering its third year of play. Boys and girls in grades five through eight are welcome.

The program will begin in mid-April and will meet two nights a week. Players are required to provide their own equipment.

Cost: \$50 per person.

Registration: Begins Monday, January 17th, in the Recreation Office.

ADULT PROGRAMS WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Women's Volleyball is for women age 18 and over.

Women's Volleyball: Mondays, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Granger Elementary School.

Cost: \$3/night.

MEN'S & CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Men's & Co-Ed Volleyball is for men and women age 18 and over.

Men's & Co-Ed Volleyball: Tuesdays, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Agawam High School.

Cost: \$3/night.

ADULT DROP-IN BASKETBALL

Drop-In Basketball is a supervised basketball program for Agawam residents age 18 and over. Proof of age and residency is required for admission.

Adult Basketball: Mondays & Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Agawam High School.

Cost: \$2/night.

The drop-in fees for the volleyball and basketball programs are payable to the site supervisor each visit. The Agawam High School Sports Schedule takes precedent over drop-in volleyball and basketball; please check with the site supervisor or call the recreation office to see when the program is cancelled.

SPRINGFIELD FALCONS HOCKEY

The Springfield Falcons are pleased to announce "Group Nights" at the *Nest*. These games will have a family-oriented theme and will benefit the Town of Agawam's Recreation Department.

A one-price ticket of \$7 allows children, adults, and seniors admission to the game(s) of your choice. *Tickets must be purchased at the Recreation Department by the Thursday prior to the game date.*

Call the Recreation Department at 821-0513 for more information.

* Sunday, January 23rd, 5:00 p.m. — Versus Providence Bruins.

* Friday, February 11th, 7:30 p.m. — Versus Quebec Canadiens.

* Friday, March 3rd, 7:30 p.m. — Versus Hartford Wolf Pack.

* Friday, April 7th, 7:30 p.m. — Versus Providence Bruins.

CPR CLASS

The Recreation Department is offering an American Heart Association CPR class. Participants will learn the risk factors for heart disease, signs and symptoms of a heart attack and stroke, and adult CPR.

This six-hour course is the perfect class to learn CPR for the first time and is ideal for senior citizens, coaches, babysitters, Boy and Girl Scouts, and any other organization.

Thursdays, February 17th and 24th, Agawam Library, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Cheryl Sabola.

Registration: Begins Monday, January 31st, at Recreation Office.

Limit: 18 participants.

Cost: \$35.

SKI TRIPS

The Recreation Department will be offering ski trips to different mountains in February and possibly March. These day trips will be offered on Saturdays, Sundays, and during the school vacation weeks if there is interest.

A minimum of 30 people is required to run a trip. Call the Recreation Office for more information.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon; however, we appreciate any articles, press releases, etc., that can be brought in on Mondays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter...

* * * * *

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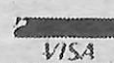
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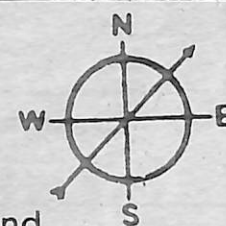


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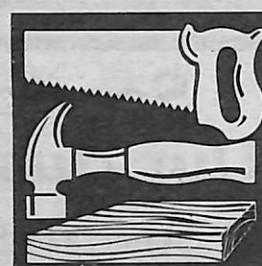
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